

ence report
terferon
helps in
hepatitis
treatment

By Pearce Wright
Science Editor

re cases of infectious
isfully in unco-
l trials using one of
family of interfe-
unds. The results
ported by Dr Stanley
and Dr Talia Hahn,
Kaplan Hospital, Tel
Aviv, Israel, in The
interferon should be
a large scale trial as
early treatment as
viral hepatitis.

treatment was given
patients who failed to
any other form of
therapy, but who were
shown by biochemical
tests to be producing
interferon naturally
in the infection.

mechanism by which
body produces this
ance is activated only
the body is attacked
a virus. The first
cells invaded a try to
fend off a before being
ed, and as they are
ating interferon for
purpose they also send
chemical early warning
message to neighbours
ells to start producing
feron.

earlier research at the
inal Institute for
th at Bethesda, in the
United States, and at the
School of Hygiene and
Tropical Medicine dis-
covered that occasionally
defence mechanism in
individual does not
go into action, even
if it has no apparent
cause.

lyses of patients
d at the Kaplan Hospital
indicated those con-
ns. The treatment that
Levin and Dr Hahn
cribed was intended to
the natural inter-
production system.

stimulation was effec-
in five of the six
ants, and three made
and uncomplicated
veries from a very
ited state of illness.

Letter No 322,
March 1982.

CIGARETTE
ALES PLAN
NGERS ASH

By a Staff Reporter
he anti-smoking pressure
up, Action on Smoking
Health (Ash) is to make
urgent complaint to Mr
John Fowler, Secretary of
State for Social Services,
ut what it calls the
acco industry's incredible
sponsibility.

he move comes after
cation in The Times of
details of a
keum campaign pre-
pared for a leading cigarette
pany, which discussed
s of encouraging young
people to smoke. The infor-
mation was contained in an
published section of a
ited States report drawn
by the Federal Trade
Commission. In it a market
company, US Brown and
Hansen, a subsidiary of
British Tobacco Indus-
ries, to prevent cigarette
ing people as part of the
cigarette pleasure category
ating it to "not" al-
sex and to avoid men-
ing health.

Mr David Simpson, director of Ash, said: "We must
the tobacco industry
to sell cigarettes above
other considerations."

JLC 'never
hought
of pruning'

By Donald Walker

The Greater London Council
never considered cutting
spending as an alterna-
tive to a heavy burden
imposing a heavy burden
on ratepayers, the Divisional
Councillor told yesterday
the Royal Borough of
London and Croydon
legislative court for the GLC's
probation for 1982-83
ruled illegal.

Mr Anthony Scrivenor, QC
for the borough, told the
Court yesterday: "We
never had been consider-
over any shortfall in its
government account. But it
ruled that reserve only
because it had refused
throughout the proceedings
to consider spending re-

strictions."

Ken Norton's case is the
to GLC's 1982-83 budget
contains £25m of illegal and
unauthorised spending. It is
an unauthorised finance and
the thrown into chaos for the
second time in five months.
The hearing continues today.

Mr Percy Grieve, QC, for
the prosecution, said there
had been constant bickering
during the marriage. On
September 1, Hinton's wife at the end
of a day during which he had
suffered persistent abuse.

Leeds prison conditions 'are deplorable'

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

The Chief Inspector of Prisons has described conditions in Leeds Prison as deplorable. A report published yesterday expresses "extreme disquiet". Over-crowding in the prison is said to be as bad as the inspection team had ever observed.

"Life is a daily struggle for survival as the numbers are jugged in an endeavour to make room for the fresh influx which the evening will bring", the chief inspector's report says.

"Leeds has been variously described as 'a human warehouse', 'a great penal transit camp' and the 'Clapham Junction of the North', all these descriptions are accurate."

There are not enough sanitary recesses on each wing; the bath-house could provide only 16 baths and showers for 1,200 men; the water supply failed almost daily because the storage tanks could no longer meet the demand; the drains became clogged; the visiting facilities were hopelessly congested; and the hospital was inappropriately sited.

The report adds that more than 300 men could not be found employment and spent their days in idleness in over-crowded cells.

Even when improvements have been done, the remaining facilities would be so inadequate that the population should be reduced. There were still some inmates in the prison hospital who would be more appropriately accommodated in local mental hospitals.

Through no fault of local management, inmates of the prison were living and staff were working in conditions degrading to both. But the high morale and rapport between staff and prisoners was said to be impressive.

The report says: "The prison is a humane, efficient conveyor belt, but we consider it highly undesirable that a prison should have to function like a production line".

The number of prisoners aged under 21 was growing and was estimated to be three times as high as on April, 1980. The report says: "The quality of the unconvicted prisoner was worse than for the convicted."

On the first day of the inspection, the total population was 1,193, instead of the 612 Leeds prison was supposed to hold. The staff were not "entirely successful" in moving the entire prison population once a sergeant in the Pay Corps, who got a five-year sentence for the theft of £5,000.

The petition, with its 30 signatures was organized by the Apex Trust, which helps former offenders to find employment. It said that tougher policing and stiffer sentencing penalties would not reduce the crime level.

21 murder attempts on policemen'

There were 21 attempts last year to murder policemen in the Strathclyde region, Mr Patrick Hamill, the area's Chief Constable, said yesterday, the Press Association reports.

After two years in which crime figures had remained almost static, he reported an increase of more than 12 per cent, giving a total of 223,685 crime recorded.

Violent crime, particularly mugging, was increasing.

Disabled to get tax refund

By Our Social Services Correspondent

Thousands of disabled people are to share a tax rebate of between £2m and £2.5m after a recent High Court decision that the tax paid on mobility allowances before 1979 was illegal. The money is to be repaid in spite of the fact that the legal move was made too late.

In a letter to Mr Alfred Morris, Labour MP for Manchester, Wythenshawe, the Chancellor of the Exchequer says he will allow the tax to be repaid in the future before 1979 to be

The repayments will be made automatically in most cases. The Inland Revenue is trying to identify people already paying tax on their mobility allowance in order to implement the Budget decision to exempt it from tax next month.

That trawl will not, however, identify those people no longer paying tax because their total income is too low. Disabled people who have not received a repayment by July 5 are being urged to claim back tax owing by the end of the year.

For many if the repayment is to be made in the future, it will not be until after the end of the year.

Mr Keith Morris's company, CK Coaches, ran 18 buses in Cardiff. He claimed last night that the company had been forced off the road by unfair competition. He said the council responded to his service by saturating the routes with extra buses and by subsidizing unrealistically low tenders for school and other transport.

Mr Percy Grieve, QC, for the prosecution, said there had been constant bickering during the marriage. On September 1, Hinton's wife at the end of a day during which he had suffered persistent abuse.

The Ulster murders Another tragedy for a famous regiment

By Henry Stanhope, Defence Correspondent

Although yesterday's three shootings brought the Army its first fatalities in Northern Ireland for six months, it was the third disaster in less than a year for The Royal Green Jackets, one of Britain's most famous regiments.

Four of its men were killed with a driver from the Royal Corps of Transport, when their Saracen armoured troop carrier was blown up by a bomb in south Armagh last May. A fifth died in another incident two months later.

Yesterday's murders raised the number of men from the regiment who have been killed in Northern Ireland since 1969 to 28, two of them officers. It came as has so often happened, when the 2nd battalion was approaching the end of its four-and-a-half-month emergency tour of duty in Springfield Road and soldiers were looking forward to returning to their families based at Minden, West Germany.

General Sir Edwin Bramall, now Chief of the General Staff, himself belongs to the "Black Maria", which is the regiment's ironic Army sobriquet.

No one is allowed near the waterline, except water board staff who have been cleared as possible typhoid carriers, and nothing is allowed to float on the lake.

Army officers have often been bitten in the past about their claims from either their own superiors or the RUC of a successful campaign against the IRA.

The number of soldiers who have so far died in Northern Ireland is now 348, and the number of injured is 3,422. The worst year for fatalities was 1972 when 103 were killed, followed by 1973, when the total was 58.

The Royal Green Jackets regiment has existed in its present form since 1966 after

From Tim Jones, Cardiff

The first private operator in Britain to win the right to compete with a local authority on the same bus routes has ceased operation after 11 months.

Mr Max Phillips, chairman of the council's transport committee, said: "The allegations about unfair tendering are nonsense. Our aim is to run the most efficient service we can."

The government seemed to think that competition would solve all problems but that philosophy is only good in a profit-making sector. This government is the only one in Europe that does not recognize that bus services are a social service."

CK Coaches, which broke a 50-year monopoly in Cardiff, operated at one time with fares up to 15p, cheaper than the city buses. The council replied with an off-peak maximum fare of 20p.

Thirlmere's boat ban will remain

By Ronald Faux

The saga of Thirlmere, the Cumbrian lake that supplies Manchester with water, is about to come full circle.

The lake was turned into a reservoir in the 1890s against

strong local opposition. Even

the bishops of Manchester

and Carlisle went on the

attack from opposite sides of

the argument, and the chairman

of the Manchester Waterworks Committee and a city alderman crawled

one wet day past the windows of

Dale Head Hall, to avoid

being tackled by the square,

in character, the regiment is

unashamedly elitist, both

socially and professionally.

Socially, its officers status is

indicated by their eligibility

to join the Cavalry and

Guards Club. Intellectually,

however, it likes to think that

it has no equals among the

Army's "teeth" arms – its

success in winning top jobs

on the General Staff has

certainly been remarkable.

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The government seemed to think that competition would solve all problems but that philosophy is only good in a profit-making sector. This government is the only one

New stop and search powers for police

LAW AND ORDER

New police powers to fight crime were announced by Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, in the Commons debate on law and order.

He said there was a case to extend police powers, particularly rationalizing existing powers to stop and search for stolen goods and by introducing powers to stop and search people for offensive weapons and to search premises for evidence in difficult cases.

Mr Whitelaw said he intended to bring forward proposals for legislation on these lines. He would also take the earliest suitable legislative opportunity to deprive from juries anyone convicted of an imprisonable offence during the past 10 years. The law in the past 10 years have served prison sentences of three months or more.

Mr Ray Hattersley, Opposition spokesman on home affairs, opening the debate, said the crime rate would be reduced by reestablishing the old regular police force and the public should be reestablished. It provided a deterrent to criminals, a reassurance to citizens, and a practical source of vital information.

Since 1979 the number of serious crimes had increased year by year, and at the same time the number of arrests had fallen. More important was the fact that there had been a massive reduction in the number of cases cleared up.

It was a simplistic solution to encourage the belief that crime could be swiftly reduced and criminals assuredly caught by tough penalties and perhaps even by capital punishment. Punishment only became an effective deterrent when the criminal believed that arrest was certain and conviction inevitable.

The major problem facing crime and the crime figures was the confidence of criminals that they could not be caught and punished, and if they believed that, argument about whether their sentences were seven or 10 years never passed through their minds.

Calls for the rod and the birch, which were in principle, harsh and残酷, alternatives to facing the facts and to taking the practical decisions which would reduce the level of crime.

The first fact to be accepted was the relationship between increasing crime and increasing unemployment. Did the Home Secretary believe in the relationship between unemployment and crime, about which he was so eloquent in 1978? If he did believe that, was it not an obvious fact that the increase in crime which had plagued the country for the past two years was in no small measure the result of the Government's economic policies?

Mr William Whitelaw, Home Secretary, intervened to say that neither the Prime Minister nor he believed that unemployment was a factor, but it was not the sole factor.

Mr Hattersley said that the Prime Minister had asserted it was not a factor on the night of the Brixton riots, and on other occasions, and he was glad that progress was now being made.

The debate had become more remote from the communities they served. They had become less visible and less associated with those communities. That process had begun almost 20 years ago when the idea of cost-

effective policing became the vogue.

The relationship that should be reestablished between the police and the public would not come about until there had been general acceptance of the need to let police back among the public.

The number of the police forces had been reduced 15 per cent from 12 to 41 areas. Fewer officers had made the police more cost effective but more remote.

The second and more radical which needed to come about was the establishment of police committees in the provinces and in London made up of elected men and women who were represented the opinions of the people who police served and who were responsible for the overall policies of the police in their areas.

He did not want those police committees to have responsibility for day-to-day operational matters but to be the simplest influence on prosecution policy which should be in the hands of the police.

There were some decisions which ought not to be taken by a chief officer, which were not able to be done and was required to justify his decision to no one.

Fundamental decisions, such as equipping a force with anti-riot gear, which were likely to affect the lives of people in the entire police force would not be made by one man alone, no matter how senior or experienced.

As elected police authority responsive to and dependent on the local community, would be a major influence in preserving the morale of the community and the streets, and encourage the right attitude to policing the inner cities.

The relationship he sought already existed in some areas, such as Birmingham, where the key role remained by the police force had maintained riots such as had occurred in London and Liverpool.

He feared the Home Secretary was being jostled into action which would alienate the police from the public in a way that made the prevention of crime and the conviction of criminals much more difficult.

A massive campaign was being mounted to convince the Home Secretary that all that was needed was tougher police powers and more stringent punishments.

The Opposition would not support the introduction of powers of the sort recommended by the Royal Commission on Criminal Procedure to extend powers to stop and search, compulsory fingerprinting of children, holding suspects in custody and arresting anyone who refused to give his name and address.

That could only result in the deterioration of the relationship between the police and public and a consequent increase, not reduction, in crime.

On March 10 the Commissioner for the Metropolis had published figures of crimes of violence analysed by the race of the assailant as perceived by the victim.

On reflection the Home Secretary would surely understand the gravity of the publication of those figures had done. How would it appear when MPs tried to assure the black British ethnic minorities and Asian families that the police in most cases were on their side? Confidence must have been undermined by that single action.

Mr Whitelaw, said the action taken had been depoliticized and demoralized police service. Reasons for an enormously difficult task were inadequate and the rapid loss of experienced officers threatened police effectiveness. That situation had been transformed.

The police had adapted their

done to bring murderers to justice.

Mr Prior: Everything possible will be done to bring murderers to justice.

Today's events are a timely reminder of the present position and the need for vigilance, and that violence is never far removed from the Northern Ireland scene.

I would like to express on behalf of the whole House the feelings we have today for the families of the three men who have been killed, as well as the families of all those who serve in Northern Ireland in the interest of the peace of the whole province and of the people of Northern Ireland.

All VIPs in Northern Ireland are warned day in and day out of the dangers they face from the IRA. Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said Mr Edward Powell (Down, South) had asked what progress had been made to bring to justice those responsible for the murder of the Rev Robert Bradford.

Mr Prior: Extensive police enquiries are continuing into the Rev Robert Bradford and Mr Campbell who was killed with him. No one has been charged so far. The Royal Ulster Constabulary will continue their investigations until the guilty are brought to justice.

Mr Powell: Why did the Secretary of State on the day after the Rev Bradford's funeral use, in the presence of Mr James Molyneaux (Antrim, South of UDR and others, the words: "We must be quick on our feet" Bradford to be murdered?" Who were they expecting would be murdered, and will he ask his officials to explain what he meant?

Mr Prior: I do not need officials to tell me what I meant. What I meant was what I said, and I stick by that.

Mr Nicholas Winterbottom (Macclesfield, C): How was the Rev Bradford, a personal friend of mine, to be murdered?

It is not right that those in the situation of the late Rev Bradford should have been receiving more adequate security cover because of their very sensitive position?

Would he assure us that the members who represent Northern Ireland in Parliament, London? We can to join Mr Prior is his respects and condolences to the families following the dastardly deed this morning and the death of three more of our young soldiers carrying out their duty on behalf of this House.

It is not right that those in the situation of the late Rev Bradford should have been receiving more adequate security cover because of their very sensitive position?

Would he assure us that the members who represent Northern Ireland in Parliament, London? We can to help the security forces and to bring peace and stability. It is not right to be quick on our feet. That is why it is so important for everyone in this House not to say things which in any way make the task of peaceful policies more difficult.

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Does he share the concern that there has been a failure in justice to the many tens of thousands of abiding citizens? Will he give an assurance that everything will be



Whitelaw: Bill soon

Hattersley: Too remote

Mr. Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Environment, has rejected the National Coal Board's application to develop the Vale of Belvoir coalfield in Leicestershire. Announcing his decision in a statement in the House of Commons, Mr. Heseltine said his decision should not be taken as going against Government policy that the coal industry had an increasingly important role to play and he accepted that the board might wish to submit a new application.

In the recent decision by the Metropolitan Police Commissioner to publish figures on the racial appearance of people involved in street robbery, had the criticism on the grounds of the harm that these figures might do to race relations. He disagreed. (Conservative cheers.)

It was better for such problems to be discussed in terms of the facts rather than in terms of the (Renewed Conservative cheers).

Some 900 officers had already been returned to beat duty in addition to those already deployed and the Commissioner had further plans for another 300 men to be put back on the beat.

In tackling local problems, it was important to bring forward proposals on this line and to take the earliest suitable legislative opportunity.

Maximum penalties for particular criminal offences were fixed by Parliament. Within this framework individual offences were decided by the courts. The independent role of judges and magistrates in sentencing was vital to maintain public confidence in the criminal justice system. It would be a bad day if the power were ever to pass to politicians.

As a realistic strategy against crime, it was recognized that it was a problem for all the community and could not be left to the determined efforts of the police alone.

MPs had a duty to ensure that the police were provided with the legal powers they needed to discharge the heavy and difficult responsibilities put on them. These powers must be accompanied by due safeguards for the citizen.

He accepted the case put by the Royal Commission on Criminal Procedure for some extension of police powers, in particular by rationalizing the existing powers to stop and search for stolen goods and by introducing powers to stop and search people for offensive weapons and to search premises for evidence in difficult cases.

He did not want those police committees to have responsibility for day-to-day operational matters but to be granted the power to make for the earliest suitable legislative opportunity.

Mr. John Morris (Aberavon, Lab) said it would be wrong to ignore social conditions. No-one was suggesting that unemployment was an excuse for crime. It was an excuse for the coal industry to be allowed to pollute the environment.

Some of Britain's chief coalfields were far too prone to pass to platforms day after day.

Mr. Michael Heseltine was

concerned how the coalfield can be managed in environmental terms although not outstanding a finger to save major national sites of special scientific interest at West Sedgemoor and Romney Marshes and the internationally important site at Haverigate Marsh.

As a result of his statement

further delays are inevitable.

It would be a fresh application to Melton Mowbray Council for permission to mine the part of the coalfield which lies under Leicestershire.

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Vale

ment is vital to meeting energy needs when the development plan on which our own mining industry depends, has a large blast through it. At the end of this decade, 8,000 jobs in the coal mining industry will be lost, 10,000 pits closed, and 10,000 miners redundant. This rejected development would replace nearly 4,000 lost jobs. He has such concern for the environment, why has he gone to lengths to protect a site he himself says in his decision letter is important in retaining its high environmental standards, while not lifting a single major national or special scientific interest? Sedgemoor and Ramey, the important site at Haworth.

A result of his statement is that the miners are inevitable. He has applied to the National Coal Board for a fresh application to the future timescale for a decision, and for a decision that is needed. These are the important matters involving the future of this country, and this application is damaging to jobs. He is trying to save the electricity supply to Britain's future.

Heseltine: He should be allowed to challenge the awards sites of special sites. This is the argument to do anything at such sites since 1980. He is dismissive so lightly the will want to be in mind of the sector's reference to a national park. The is nothing I would have thought about as me. He is a difficult and complex man, but he is not a simple man.

Mr Frank Moore used to be a "snap Labour voter" but this time he pondered long and hard. He is still Labour, but may think again next time.

Mr George McIntosh said: "I voted for Jenkins. It was Labour last time but I want to see if we can get something in this country". Mrs Agnes Emerson admitted that she had "changed a little" — another Jenkins convert. "I don't mind that. The progressive vote is split enough without splitting it again for Jenkins".

Mrs Sarah Black, a cheery Liberal in her twenties, told reporters to keep clear of her daughter aged seven — "she has got the mumps". Mrs Black said her husband persuaded her to vote SDP although she was upset that the Liberal candidate had to step down for Mr Jenkins. "It's a funny family, they don't like telling you who they're voting for. It's the Scottish thing, you see, it's their business".

What the voters said... New brooms, old wasteland

By Anthony Bevins and Jonathan Wills

When the voters of Partick West ward in Glasgow, Hillhead, last went to the polls in the 1980 district elections, they gave the Conservatives 45 per cent, Labour 34 SDP 15 and the Liberals 5 per cent of their votes. Even so, the SDP/Liberal Alliance was polling well in the ward yesterday morning, and there was strong evidence that old loyalties were dying.

One couple, both aged 70, had always voted Labour. The woman, who did not wish to be named, said: "We have done so ever since we married; until today."

She had voted SDP: "I like what they stand for. They are middle of the road." Why had she turned against Labour? "They are too left. They are too communist. We have read all the brochures and that is those people in the middle".

"Yes, I've changed my vote too," Mrs Elizabeth Ballintyne said. "I have voted Labour candidate — I can't remember his name. You see, Sir Tam Galbraith always held the vote here. He never did much. We need Jenkins and the alliance."

Mrs Ellen Easton was unimpressed: "I always vote the same, Labour". So does Mr James McIntyre. Looking out over the industrial wasteland on the banks of the Clyde, he said: "Roy Jenkins was one of the ones that butchered the shipyards in this area".

Mr Frank Moore used to be a "snap Labour voter" but this time he pondered long and hard. He is still Labour, but may think again next time.

Mr George McIntosh said: "I voted for Jenkins. It was Labour last time but I want to see if we can get something in this country". Mrs Agnes Emerson admitted that she had "changed a little" — another Jenkins convert. "I don't mind that. The progressive vote is split enough without splitting it again for Jenkins".

Mrs Sarah Black, a cheery Liberal in her twenties, told reporters to keep clear of her daughter aged seven — "she has got the mumps". Mrs Black said her husband persuaded her to vote SDP although she was upset that the Liberal candidate had to step down for Mr Jenkins. "It's a funny family, they don't like telling you who they're voting for. It's the Scottish thing, you see, it's their business".

New steps towards making private records more public

By David Hewson

The Government announced tentative steps yesterday towards making the private records of past office more publicly available. The measures, which are a response to last year's report on official secrecy headed by Sir Duncan Wilson, a former Ambassador to Moscow and Master of Corpus Christi College, will not satisfy those who have sought a full-blooded Freedom of Information Bill.

But the White Paper announced by Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, the Lord Chancellor, does contain several new measures which are likely to interest academic and journalistic researchers who are fond of the Public Records Office.

The most striking is a relaxing of the edit issued in 1967 by Lord Gardiner, Lord Chancellor, which exempted the internal files of MI5 and MI6 from disclosure under the 30-year rule. In future, the blanket approval required

for such exemptions will be subject to more specific and frequent ministerial endorsement. Every blanket approval granted will be subject to reconsideration after not more than 20 years.

In addition, the Public Records Office will make available some information about the material which has been withheld. That will include brief details of the types of records covered, the period of the batch and a note of the dates when they were exempted from the 30-year rule. The White Paper says: "The information will enable researchers in the PRO to be better informed about the nature of material retained although the description of some of the retained material, for example records affecting national security, will necessarily have to be brief."

There will not be a flood of new material from government departments to the Public Records Office as a result of yesterday's announcement. That will

disappoint those who supported the recommendations made by Sir Duncan Wilson and his colleagues, Professor Margaret Gowin, official historian of the British atomic energy programme, and Sir Paul Osmond, former secretary to the Church Commissioners.

The Wilson report condemned the Macmillan, Home, Wilson, Heath, Callaghan and Thatcher administrations for failing to implement properly the sound system for handing departmental information promulgated in the Public Records Act, 1958.

But yesterday's White Paper took the Wilson report to task for underestimating the cost of liberalizing the system of public disclosure, which Sir Duncan Wilson said was minimal. It also rejected his suggestion that valuable records had been destroyed because of inadequacies

Modern Public Records Stationery Office 8531, £2.65.

Archaeology report

Riddle of the Chinese anchors may be solved

By Norman Hammond, Archaeology Correspondent

The great Chinese anchor mystery seems to have been solved. Adherents of long-distance prehistoric voyaging will be disappointed that one of their best cases so far is apparently baseless, while those archaeologists who

seek to "explain" cultural development in terms of local change rather than sudden appearances of a *deus ex machina* will have a sigh of relief.

For several centuries academics have scouted the notion that Chinese voyagers visited North America around AD 500, as it happened, the period when civilization in Mexico was reaching its apogee. Occasional artefacts such as the carved mirror backs of the bronze Age onwards in the Mediterranean area, in 1973 a doughnut-shaped rock of similar form was dredged up off California, and then in 1975 a site with at least twenty such stones was located just south of Los Angeles.

Dr C. William Clewlow, at that time with the University of California at Los Angeles, gave an estimated date of five hundred to a thousand years to the pierced rocks: on grounds of style.

Another scholar, James R. Moriarity III, of the University of San Diego, decided

and sent illustrations of the objects to Chinese experts for comment.

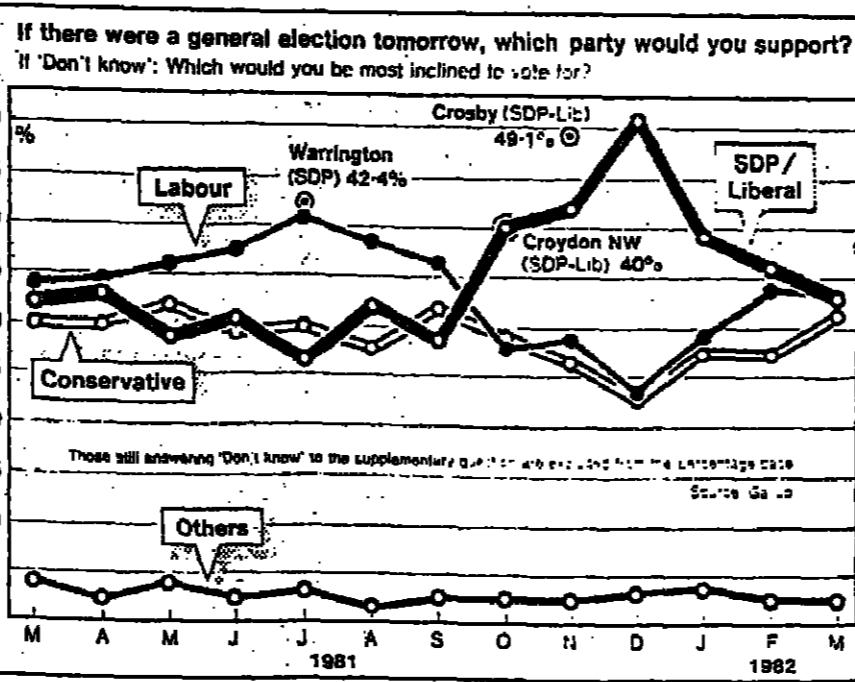
The noted maritime historian Fang Zhongpu responded in *China Record* in August 1980, that such stones were "known to have been used for thousands of years as anchors", and were sometimes referred to as "stone pillars" in texts. Dr Moriarity and Dr Larry Pieron advanced their case in the *Anthropological Journal of Canada* in 1980, by citing other evidence of trans-Pacific contact, including the long-discredited theory of links between Japan and the Pearl River delta, in southern China. As well as permanent coastal settlements in northern California, they had temporary camps on the Santa Barbara Channel Islands, on one of which a stone anchor had been found.

While Professor Frost admits that some of the stone objects found underwater do not seem to be anchors, he claims that "it seems most likely that all of the stones are associated with the nineteenth-century California fishing industry, either as anchors, moorings, or devices concerned in some way with the manipulation of

recreational fishing". This convincing essay has now been shortly and thoroughly denounced by Professor Frank Frost, of the University of California at Santa Barbara, a specialist in ancient Greek seafaring. He notes that the stones "are almost certainly Monterey shale, one of the most common coastal formations in southern California", and that the stones (which are

Source: *Archaeology*, Vol. 35 No. 1, 22-28, 1982.

After one SDP year: the Alliance's progress with the voters



Now the party will choose its leader

By Ian Bradley

It is a strange coincidence that the result of the Glasgow, Hillhead by-election should be declared a year to the day since the launching of the Social Democracy Party.

The party's rapid rise in the aftermath of the spectacularly staged launch in London's Connaught Rooms surprised even the most ardent Social Democrats. Within 10 days it had 43,566 members and opinion polls showed the prospect of a SDP/Liberal Alliance attracting the support of a third of the electorate.

The alliance also showed that it was not the shining, whiter than white party that many of its supporters supposed but just as capable of bickering and nastiness as Labour and the Conservatives. A much publicized outburst by Mr William Rodgers at the end of December about the distribution of seats between the SDP and the Liberals did much to tarnish the new party's hitherto stainless image.

With Hillhead behind it, the SDP will now concentrate on electing its first leader. The first stage in the process will be the distribution of ballot papers to all members in the next two weeks. They

will be asked to vote on whether the leader should be elected by the party membership as a whole or by MPs alone.

There will also be a vote on whether the leader should be elected by the party membership as a whole or by MPs alone. There will also be a compromise option involving a election by the whole membership for the first leader who will take the party into the next general election, with election by MPs thereafter.

For the alliance, the next by-election will come at Beaconsfield, where Mr Paul Taylor, former Liberal MP for Bodmin, will carry the standard. No date has been fixed for the contest, but it is unlikely to predate the local government elections on May 6 at which the alliance will be trying to win control of several London boroughs and establish a sizeable presence in the big metropolitan districts.

VOTING CHANGE: by-elections since last general election (in brackets)

	Lab.	Con.	Lib (or SDP-Lib)
Manchester Central	70.7 (70.7)	12.0 (22.1)	14.1 (5.2)
Herfordshire SW	27.7 (27.7)	54.7 (45.9)	23.6 (16.2)
Southend E	35.6 (29.1)	36.8 (56.1)	25.1 (13.1)
Southend	48.4 (61.7)	7.1 (28.8)	42.4 (9.0)
July 1981	28.0 (40.1)	30.5 (49.4)	40.0 (10.5)
Oct 1981	9.5 (25.4)	39.8 (56.9)	49.1 (15.2)
Nov 1981			
Glasgow C.	60.8 (72.5)	Con 8.8 (16.4)	SNP 26.3 (11.1)
Belfast S.	Mar 1982 Off UU 89.05 (61.7)	Alliance 26.7 (25.1)	DUP 22.3 (-)

Roy Jenkins: the toughened liberal aiming at No 10

By George Clark

With a notable career in Westminster and European politics already behind him, Roy Jenkins, at the age of 61, has surprised both friends and enemies with his determination in the two by-elections he has contested in the past eight months.

He was the main initiating force in the promotion of the Race Relations Act, 1968.

Then came his three-year stint as Chancellor of the Exchequer, when he ran into a lot of trouble with Labour left-wingers. However, politicians, especially Labour ones, now look back on this as a halcyon period when the rate of inflation was held to 5 per cent and the number of unemployed was 500,000.

Mr Jenkins found in the 1970s more and more of a sympathy with Labour's policies. A pro-Marketeer since 1955, in April, 1972, he resigned the deputy leadership of the Fabian Society when the Shadow Cabinet, in

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NEWS IN SUMMARY

Zimbabwe road closed by curfew

Salisbury. — Police imposed a dusk-to-dawn curfew on a 45-mile stretch of a main road on southern Zimbabwe main after an ambush in which two motorists were killed.

The curfew applies to the road from Balla Balla, 38 miles south-east of Bulawayo, to Gwanda in the south. Police said two freight company employees had been killed by unknown assailants when their car came under small arms fire.

The incident was the latest in a series of armed attacks around Bulawayo. Police also announced that another arms load had been uncovered at Bulawayo, near Balla Balla.

Test tube twins for Canada

Oakville, Ontario. — A high school English teacher, Mrs. Kit Rankin, gave birth to twin boys conceived by test-tube fertilization, the first such births in North America, the Trafalgar Memorial Hospital announced. One weighed 6lb 15oz, the other 6lb 4oz.

A boy and girl born last June in Australia were the first set of twins conceived by the British Steptoe-Edwards technique. Mr. Patrick Steptoe was present at the Canadian births.

Reagan says thank you

Mutual support: President Reagan giving a warm welcome to President Sandro Pertini of Italy in Washington at the start of his state visit.



Salvador awaits bloody Sunday end to elections

From Paul Ellman, San Salvador, March 25

Troops and police filled the streets here today as El Salvador's military command girded itself for a guerrilla offensive designed to disrupt Sunday's crucial elections.

Campaigning for the elections officially ended last night with a crescendo of abuse and vilification, most of it directed by the extreme right against the Christian Democratic Party, headed by President Duarte.

Señor Duarte, whose followers represent the centre ground in El Salvador's turbulent politics, was variously described as a "communist", "traitor" and "homosexual" in broadcasts which dominated radio and television stations throughout yesterday evening.

Most observers here expect the partners of the far right to capture more than half the vote on Sunday, thereby precipitating a new political crisis.

Signs of increasing military activity in the north and east of El Salvador appeared to indicate that the threatened guerrilla offensive was beginning.

The guerrillas, operating under the umbrella of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Movement, have denounced the elections as a farce and promised to disrupt the poll.

In what was seen as a first step, guerrillas yesterday captured a small town in the province of Morazan, 120 miles north-east of San Salvador. Scattered firing was reported today around the provincial capital, San Francisco Gotera, which is crammed with refugees.

In San Salvador, troops were stationed in residential areas as a precaution against guerrilla attacks.

Early today, firing broke out around the headquarters of the election commission when a unit of the National Guard mistook a group of treasury police for guerrillas.

The Salvadoran military is considered capable of meeting the threat posed by the guerrillas, should the all-out

guerrilla offensive have materialized in the days before the elections.

The guerrillas, however,

have already let it be known that the aim of the offensive would not be to seize control of the country. Rather the intention would be to create an atmosphere of chaos which would damage the credibility of the electoral process.

President Duarte, mean-

while, has rejected claims by

the extreme right that the

result of Sunday's vote has

been rigged in advance. He

said that the armed forces,

the election commission and

foreign observers, including

two from Britain, would

ensure a free and fair vote.

□ Amsterdam: The bodies of

four Dutch newsmen killed

in El Salvador last week

arrived here today and autopsies

were being performed on

them at once, a Dutch Justice

Ministry spokesman said

(Reuters reports).

He said a pathologist's

report would be sent to the

Dutch Government, which is

compiling a report on the

deaths of the four members

of a television news crew

that was killed in the

attack on the fatal grenade

ijacker of
shombe
ane gets
years

from Harry Debelius
Madrid, March 25

A Bilbao provincial court today completely absolved nine women who stood trial eight days ago for seeking secret abortions at various times before October, 1976.

In a judgment likely to echo throughout Spanish society, the court emphasized that it was seeking to respect the rights of women proclaimed in the 1978 democratic constitution.

The court took the biggest step forward within its power to bring the country into line with most of Western Europe over abortions, despite the determination of Roman Catholic circles to keep it a crime.

Besides clearing nine working class women, all with low levels of education, and several unemployed husbands and sickness in their families, the court urged an individual pardon by the executive for Señora Julia García, under the 1977 general amnesty. She was sentenced to 12 years, six months and three days imprisonment after being found guilty of aborting three women in the case. The prosecutor had asked, under the penalties dating from the Franco era, for a sentence of up to 60 years for her.

It also imposed the minimum prison sentence imposed on Señor José Seara of one month and one day, which he has already served for bringing the women to the trial. M. Boden tested that the case should go to a civil court under the terms of the 1978 constitution, so said that the defendant should be set free under Juan Carlos' amnesty which covers political offences. Finally, he agreed that no crime was committed in Spain as a result of the hijacking took place outside Spain.

Boden tested that it was not a hijacking, but a detention, because he was acting as an agent for the Spanish government, where Mr. Ishmael wanted by the authorities.

Boden was arrested in Belgium and extradited to Spain the same year, in Palma awaiting trial. At the time charges brought against him, he came under the jurisdiction of Spanish Air courts.

At the time of the abortions, sale of contraceptives was illegal in Spain. None of

Spanish women cleared at abortion trial

From Richard Wigg, Madrid, March 25

The accused had gone to doctors.

Prison for abortion still remains on the statute book and Señor Leopoldo Calvo Sotelo, the Prime Minister, confirmed only last weekend, after seeing the Pope in Rome, that he and his Government were opposed to introducing any legislation to make it cease to be a crime.

An international conference on the family, organized by Spanish Catholics, now being held in Madrid, immediately condemned the court's verdict. Various extreme right-wing organizations are threatening street demonstrations.

The Bilbao court has significantly changed the issue by emphasizing the "state of necessity" in which the nine women of Basque found themselves. One told the court that a police woman remarked when arresting her: "To have got an abortion without complications you should have gone to London."

A leading Spanish woman's doctor today estimated there are 200,000 to 250,000 clandestine abortions a year in Spain, while it is believed up to 500,000 more women, who can afford it, go to England for safe abortion operations.

The court admitted it was acting without Parliament having got the legislation through in accordance with the 1978 constitution. In a passage likely to upset the church, the court gave priority to the rights of the women over the foetus as embryonic life.

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Man dies as consulate is stormed

Bombay — Fifty people, their motive unclear, attacked the United States Consulate with rocks and petrol bombs and one attacker was shot dead by police. Eight cars belonging to consulate staff were burned but no injuries reported among the American staff.

The attackers, 30 of whom were arrested, were said either to be members of Shiv Sena, a fanatical group, or members of the Azad Hind Sena (Independent India Army).

Seal killing ends early

St. John's, Newfoundland — Seal hunters, after a smaller than usual annual kill, have put a premature end to the killing of pups amid gloom over official support in Western Europe for a ban on seal pelts imports. Prices went down by 40 per cent after the European Parliament's vote for an import ban.

Sources here said that six Canadian ships operating off Newfoundland had returned to port with only half their quota. Hunters took less than 3,000 out of their fixed quota of 6,000 pelts of hooded seals.

Walkout over Khmer Rouge

Bangkok — The Soviet Union and four of its Asian allies walked out of a United Nations regional economic conference when a representative of the Khmer Rouge addressed the gathering as the delegate of Cambodia. Afghanistan, Vietnam, Laos and Mongolia joined the Soviet Union in the walkout. They maintain that the Khmer Rouge no longer represents the Cambodian people.

Turtle island turns turtle

Dar es Salaam — Maziwi Island, off north Tanzania, which was the main nesting place for sea turtles along the East African coast has disappeared beneath the sea, the Tanzanian Daily News reports. Two researchers could find no trace of it nor of the turtles.

Soviet scientist killed in crash

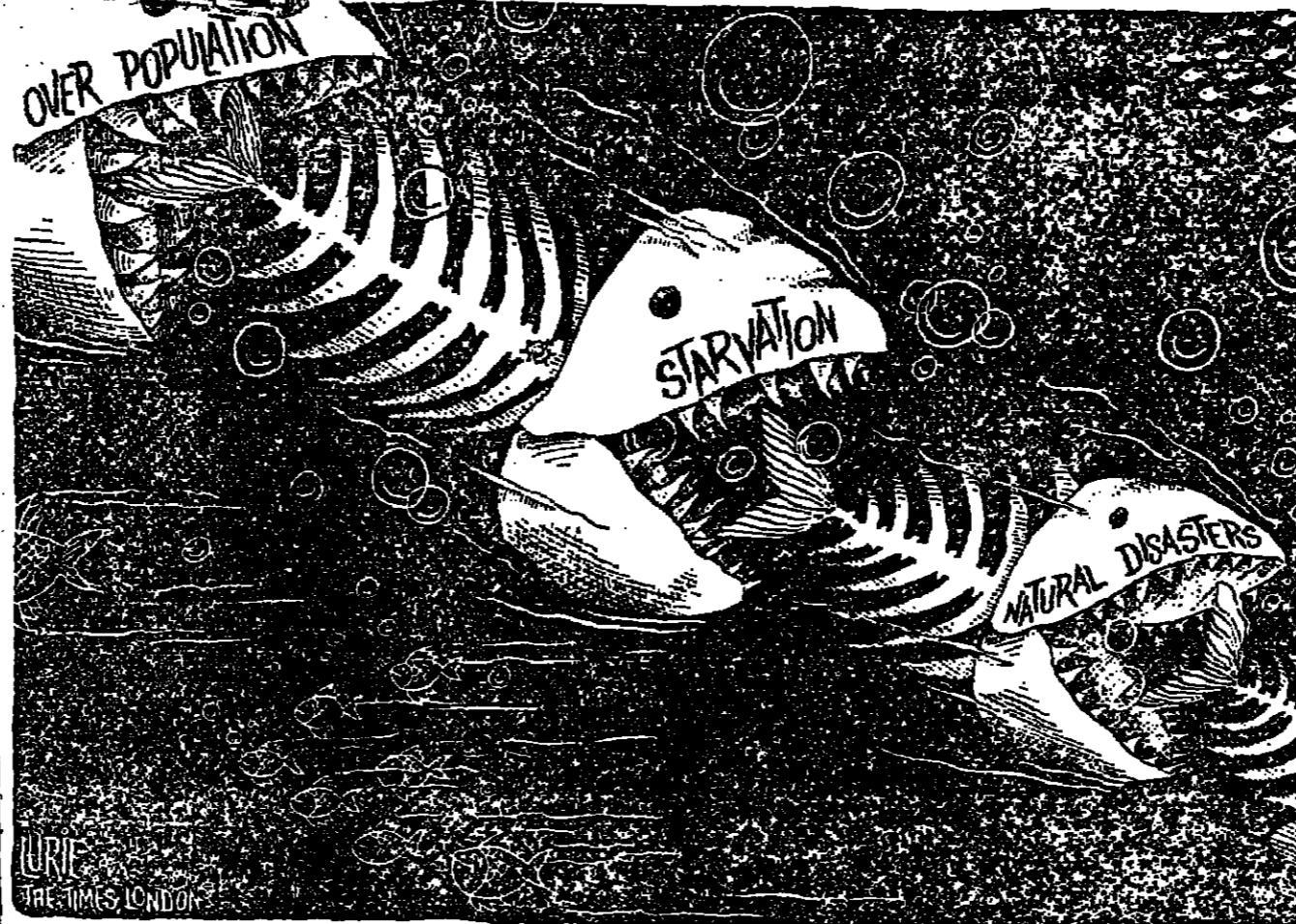
Moscow — Aleksandr Sidorenko, a vice-president of the Soviet Academy of Sciences and a former government minister, was killed in a car crash on Tuesday while visiting Algeria. He was 64. As Minister of Geology from 1965 until 1976 he played an important role in his country's intensive development of oil and other mineral resources.

Red Cross team told to leave

Nairobi — Uganda has asked the International Committee of the Red Cross to leave the country, according to Red Cross officials. The functions of the eight-man team would be taken over by the Ugandan branch of the Red Cross.

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OVERSEAS NEWS 7



Bangladesh coups

Ousted Dacca leader faces execution

By Leslie Pommier

Mr Abdus Sattar, the ousted President of Bangladesh, and his Cabinet face the death penalty if put on trial and found guilty of malpractice allegedly involving some of his colleagues.

Meanwhile, unconfirmed reports quote official sources as saying that several political leaders are already under arrest. They are said to include Mr Saifur Rahman, dismissed in February as Finance Minister; Mr Chowdhury Tavir Ahmed Siddiqui, former State Minister for Commerce; and Mr Attauddin Khan, former State Minister for Manpower Development.

Three other former ministers were already under arrest on embezzlement charges. They are Mr S. A. Bari, a former Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Nurul Huq, former Transport Minister, and Mr K. M. Obaidur Rahman, former Civil Aviation Minister.

It is not clear whether Mr Abu Kabash, former Youth Minister and a powerful Bangladesh National Party figure, is in detention. He was held but released recently after a party colleague wanted in connection with seven murders was arrested at Mr. Kashem's house.

Britain has cancelled a planned visit to Dacca next week by Mr. Neil Martens, a Foreign Minister for Overseas Development who was to tour projects and meet ministers to discuss aid to Bangladesh.

Poll setback puts strain on Dutch coalition

From Robert Schuyl, Amsterdam, March 25

The ruling Dutch centre-left coalition — composed of Christian Democrats, Labour and leftist Democrats 66 had come under heavy pressure in the wake of yesterday's provincial elections.

Both Labour and Democrats 66 suffered politically significant losses. For Labour in particular the result of the poll was an electoral disaster.

Significantly the big winner was the conservative Liberal Party, the country's main opposition. Until last May's parliamentary elections they formed a centrist coalition with the Christian Democrats. Now they are the country's second largest political party in percentage terms.

The final returns of the election in which 705 members of the country's 11 provincial assemblies were chosen showed that the Labour Party had fallen from 28.27 per cent of the national vote in last May's election to 21.75 per cent. Translated into parliamentary terms it means that had this been a general election, Labour would have lost 10 of its 44 seats in the 150-seat Lower House.

In last May's elections Labour already lost nine seats, underscoring how its popularity has eroded since the 1977 general election, when it emerged as the country's largest party with 34.

"I cannot understand those who say that because we are not a super-power, foreign policy and the Foreign Office are no longer important."

He said that one of the priorities he had set himself was to draw up his previous plan to do away with the strategic nuclear missiles Europe under the so-called START which are set to open this year.

But the West European forces are to be controlled by the Americans on the American position first — with the policy before the forces INF — which opened in Geneva last year.

It looks certain that the state will elect a Labour government for the first time since 1955. That means Mr. Fraser's grip of the leadership of the party, and his Government's hold on power after next year, will both be in jeopardy.

The Liberals have reigned comfortably in Victoria for a generation without having to form a coalition with the National Party (formerly the Country Party, representing

Shock for Lee Kuan Yew

Singaporeans support their lone ranger

From David Watts, Singapore, March 25

The image of Singapore as a country united and content through its spectacular economic success has been jolted by confidential soundings taken by the ruling People's Action Party (PAP).

The survey showed that the party leadership has not been receiving accurate feedback from the grassroots, either through poor intelligence or an unwillingness to bear bad news.

No details of the survey have been made public. The PAP has always closely guarded details of its organization and methods, but it is understood that the survey showed a greater degree of disaffection with the Government than Mr. Lee Kuan Yew, the Prime Minister, had been aware of — contradicting the assumption that economic progress equals voter contentment.

But what was perhaps more disturbing to the party was that, according to the soundings, many voters are enthusiastic about having an opposition in Parliament. Mr. J. B. Jeyaretnam won a seat in a by-election last October on behalf of the Workers' Party and since then Mr. Lee and other PAP leaders have consistently warned Singaporeans that more harm than good was likely to come from the advent of opposition in Parliament.

Mr. Srinathambu Rajaram, the Second Deputy Prime Minister, was given a warning of the "intellectual dishonesty" of the argument that having parliamentary opposition would help the Government to govern better.

Noting that Singapore's most rapid progress had been made in the years from 1965 to 1981, "blessed by no factional quarrels, carrying on in Parliament," Mr. J. B. Jeyaretnam said that those who wanted an opposition would find it that if there was no difference, if Singapore was lucky.

"Unfortunately they may discover, at great cost, that if we are unlucky, like most developing countries, an opposition can make for confusion by raising false

Race for the Senate

Brown fights low profile campaign

From Michael Hamlyn

San Francisco

Governor Jerry Brown of California is now an official candidate for the Democratic nomination for the United States Senate. He embarks on a "low profile" campaign until June when the primary will be held. This is regarded as an almost certain winner of the primary, but what happens in the general election in November is anybody's guess.

The mid-term elections in California have a unique importance. It is the largest state by population and by economic activity. The Governor of California, as the governor of New York used to be, is automatically considered as a candidate for presidential nomination.

The opinion polls, it is true, do show him trailing behind the leading Republican contenders. When he was first elected to the Senate four years ago, "No one would have given you anything for his chances of reelection," he said. "But he is a very good campaigner, and he fought back to win, from an apparently hopeless position. He did the same again."

The man regarded as most likely to win the republican nomination for senator is Barry Goldwater, the son of the veteran senator and former presidential candidate from Arizona. He himself is a member of the House of Representatives from Santa Barbara.

Mr Goldwater: War chest brimming over.

Pete against him for the Democratic nomination in June, calls him "the lord of the flies."

The fact that Governor Brown is trailing his probable rivals is not — at present — causing his party a great deal of concern. Mr. Peter Kelly, Democratic Party chairman for southern California, pointed out that Mr. Brown was in a much worse position at the end of his first term in office four years ago.

"No one would have given you anything for his chances of reelection," he said. "But he is a very good campaigner, and he fought back to win, from an apparently hopeless position. He did the same again."

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Representative Paul Mc-

Arrigo Levi: A Personal View

Berlinguer trapped in vicious circle

When a man does not behave according to his real nature and inclinations, his behaviour is likely to become erratic and he often makes surprising mistakes.

Signor Enrico Berlinguer, the secretary of Italy's Communist Party and a mediator and conciliator, who characteristically labelled his greatest political idea "the historical compromise", has recently tried to prove that he can also be the leader of an embattled party, engaged in a fierce war with all kinds of enemies: the Soviet Union, the Christian Democrats, and Signor Bettino Craxi, the Socialist leader.

In his new role, however, Signor Berlinguer is completely out of character, is making serious mistakes and risks losing his authority in the party.

The latest mistake was to allow the editor of the party newspaper *L'Unità*, a bright but inexperienced young man, to launch a fierce attack on the Christian Democrats, one of them, in particular, accusing them of having approached a *Comunione* boss in jail to obtain a huge ransom for the liberation by the Red Brigades of their colleague Signor Ciro Cirillo who had been kidnapped and who was later released.

Unfortunately for *L'Unità*, the document it published and which was supposed to prove the guilt of the two politicians was soon shown to be a poor fabrication, which would have been easily discovered if the editor had not acted in great secrecy and without consulting his senior colleagues.

Even worse, his action had been authorized by one or two of the party leaders, and almost certainly by Signor Berlinguer himself, with most of the members of the party executive and secretariat being kept in the dark. The party had to admit that an "error of judgment and method" had been made, but criticism mounted against the recklessness shown by the party leader in this case as well as on recent other occasions.

These events prove how unsettling it can be for a Communist Party to cut its traditional links with the Soviet Union — as Signor Berlinguer's party has tried to do with determination in reaction to the tragic events in Poland.

Since they came out with a denunciation of the Soviet party and system, by declar-

© Times Newspapers Limited, 1982

Sweden reduces bill for salvaging Soviet sub

From Christopher Mosey, Stockholm, March 25

Sweden handed over a drastically pared-down bill for salvaging the Soviet submarine that went on the rocks off its main southern naval base last year to try to improve relations with the Soviet Union.

The bill for the operation in the Karlskrona archipelago came to 1.6m kronor (£160,000) and was officially handed over today. At first the bill was put at 2.5m kronor by the authorities, who had already been ordered by the Government to cut back demand for 5.2m kronor.

The first bill was delivered to the Soviet Embassy soon after the Russians had lodged a formal protest to the Government proposed new measures for combating further submarine incursions.

Mr Nejland, who speaks fluent Swedish, said from his home in Riga, Latvia: "If I have succeeded in spreading communist propaganda in Sweden, then I am extremely happy."

General Lennart Ljung, the Swedish Supreme Commander, this week presented to the Government proposed new measures for combating further submarine incursions.

Mr. Nejland, who speaks fluent Swedish, said from his home in Riga, Latvia: "If I have succeeded in spreading communist propaganda in Sweden, then I am extremely happy."

The other important post at stake in November is the one that Mr. Brown is vacating in the Governor's mansion in Sacramento. The Democratic candidate is almost certain to be Mr. Thomas Bradley, the present Mayor of Los Angeles. He is an uninspiring orator but has an impressive record, having balanced the budget in each of the last eight years of his office, without cutting services too heavily or raising new taxes.

If successful, he would be the first black to be elected governor of any state.

Each of the mayor's two Republican opponents is at present fighting for the party's nomination by trying to show himself as the true conservative. They are Mr. Michael Curb, the present Lieutenant-Governor of California, and Mr. George Deukmejian, who is a slow, deliberate veteran of public office.

Though Democrats dominate the state numerically, Republicans like to think that they get elected to office because of their executive ability. "People say they like the Democrats' programmes as they control the [State] assembly but they think that we are more effective in carrying things out so elect us to individual offices," a leading Republican said.



President Duarte (left) and supporters of his electoral rival, Robert d'Aubuisson

The most misunderstood revolution

El Salvador's vital election takes place on Sunday. David Browning argues that the achievements of President Duarte's rule have been undervalued by Western opinion

El Salvador is indeed a battle-ground. Unfortunately, the presentation by the media of the nature of the battle being fought there is in large part unbalanced.

The dominant preoccupation of the several hundred journalists now crowded into San Salvador's Camino Real hotel is with saturation coverage of every military action, of every act of terrorism and of the desperate sufferings of the innocent civilians caught in the cross-fire. Such tragedies occur daily and must be reported; but a profound social revolution has been initiated by the present Revolutionary Junta of El Salvador with the support of the majority of the nation's population and its achievements have been sadly neglected.

The need for revolutionary change in El Salvador is self-evident. Agriculture, whether for export or subsistence, is the foundation of the economy and land ownership has constituted the basis of power and privilege. For a century, ownership of land was concentrated in the hands of an oligarchy of less than 3 per cent of the population, which annually received one-third of the nation's income. The majority were obliged to live in poverty as dependent workers on the plantations.

In 1932 this unjust poverty, exacerbated then as now by international economic depression, caused a rebellion of the Salvadoran peasantry. Ruling class fear of rebellion provoked its brutal

suppression and a shift in political power towards the army, which, by military dictatorship and the acquiescence of the oligarchy, ruled the country until 1979.

In El Salvador, as elsewhere in Latin America, it is such injustice which provides the seed-bed for social discontent and popular demands for change. Ironically, the opportunities most favourable to the advance of fascism and communism become greatest precisely at that point where moderate political leaders are able to respond to popular demands for a change.

In such circumstances those whose privilege and power are threatened by reforms will seek to oppose them by reinforcing the tyranny of the Right. Those seeking the violent implantation of the tyranny of the Left will oppose reforms which demonstrate a capability for succeeding without tyranny.

In El Salvador, those most culpable for the daily violence and abuse of human rights are groups of political extremists — guerrillas on the Left, death squads on the Right — which both receive material backing from abroad. Neither extreme has the support of the majority of the population.

Their eventual aims are very different but their immediate aims are identical: to destroy at birth the fundamental changes which, for the first time could give El Salvador democratic institutions based on social and economic justice.

Since 1980, the character and aims of the junta have derived from a pact between the Christian Democratic Party (PDC) led by Duarte and those army officers responsible for the 1979 overthrow of the Romero dictatorship. PDC agreement to this pact was given on two conditions: the army reform of itself; and army support for thorough reforms. The first demand has been met in part, with major purges of senior commanders. Realization of the second condition has initiated a process which, may already have become an irreversible democratic revolution.

The keystone of this revolution is an inter-connected series of reforms: expropriation of the country's 325 largest plantations and reorganization of these as peasant cooperatives; review of medium-sized estates and landlord-tenant relations; nationalization of the banks and merchant houses and the encouragement of local peasant self-government.

All this could not have been achieved without the support of an army in which traditional attitudes have been transformed and certainly it would have been impossible without the existence of the PDC. The Christian Democrats are a broadly based political movement in El Salvador able to claim consistent opposition over 20 years to the previous power structure.

Duarte's personal record is the clearest example of this: three

years he was elected as a reformist

mayor of San Salvador; in 1972 he

was elected president as candidate of a united opposition front, was

denied his victory, opposed the

military by violence and was

imprisoned, tortured and exiled.

Unlike his exiled colleagues who have become the public spokesmen for the guerrillas, but who do not command them, Duarte voluntarily returned to El Salvador in 1980 to be greeted by 150,000 citizens in the streets of his capital.

These facts underline the im-

portance of Sunday's election.

Undoubtedly, this is premature and its proper conduct will be immensely difficult. The guerrillas, though publicly dismissing the elections as a farcical irrelevance, are now using every method to prevent citizens from

voting: direct intimidation, destruction of public transport and bridges, and confiscation at gunpoint of the identity cards required by each voter.

Certainly, the West needs an independent judgment on the conduct of these elections and it is fortunate that, along with most European nations, Britain has had a democratic assessment. But perhaps the sturdiest indication of the importance and validity of this election is that there is no one in El Salvador able to predict what the result will be.

It is not at all certain that the Christian Democrats — which as the "ruling party" is so closely associated with the economic and military difficulties of the past two years — will win a majority in a new Constituent Assembly. A new alliance of parties may emerge. One certainty however, is that a popular revolution is occurring in El Salvador and any attempt, by either extreme, to reverse or divert the course of this democratic revolution would be resisted by the majority in that country and would cause El Salvador to sink into a truly civil war.

Dr Browning, Fellow of St Cross College, Oxford, is special adviser to the Foreign Affairs select committee of the House of Commons and has recently returned from a visit to El Salvador.

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Davis Watt's column will appear next week

Human dynamo in the Sony system

You almost suspect, on meeting Akio Morita, that one of his identically-dressed aides has just changed his master's batteries and slipped an English-speaking video cassette into a hidden slot in the back of his head.

Although unmistakably oriental between his flowing silver hair and his sharp-cut Italian suit, the co-founder and current chairman of the Sony electronics company stands out as one of the most familiar, most westernized and least inscrutable of the Japanese generals who lead their country's assault on western export markets.

Mr Morita is visiting London — for the second time this year — to attend the opening of an exhibition of his company's products at the Boilerhouse, the annexe of the Victoria and Albert Museum established to display good industrial design.

Sony, founded with £250 in 1946 to make voltmeters, is only the 45th largest Japanese company, and is by no means the biggest in the electronics field. But Mr Morita has built its reputation on innovation, launching products people never previously realized that they wanted. He claims to have been the first Japanese exporter to demolish his country's former reputation for shoddy imitation.

"We feel a responsibility to utilize our technology. We should serve mankind all over the world," said Mr Morita, intoning the company philosophy in heavily accented but fluent English. Serving mankind has included introducing Japan to its first tape recorder, and the rest of the world to the transistor radio, the transistorized portable television, the domestic video recorder, the flat pocket television, and many more.

Transistors were an American invention, thought suitable for use only in hearing aids until Mr Morita bought the patent rights and founded a miniaturized empire on them. The search for new applications is endless; Mr Morita's most recent success was to take a small and simple cassette player, attach a set of headphones, and market it as the Walkman, the indispensable mobile personal music centre.

"I cannot make up my mind whether the Sony reputation is founded on genuine excellence or good public relations," confided Mr Stephen Bayley, the Boilerhouse director who has spent a week politely asserting his authority over a dozen Sony functionaries who arrived from Tokyo with very fixed ideas on how the exhibition should be staged.



Akio Morita: 'We get to know our markets'

Mr Morita is the living proof that the reputation is in fact founded on marketing. He first came to Europe in 1953 (buying three German cameras) and since then has never ceased travelling the world, garnering an intimate knowledge of his markets, existing and potential.

"It is a fact that Japan's

cation is the most important form of marketing.

"Europeans do not travel to Japan and do not know the market. There will be a market there if they look for it, and a large one."

Mr Morita confessed that, in some ways, his company has been a victim of its own success. "Competition between Japanese companies has been intense for three decades. Always when we introduce a new product there is immediately an imitation."

A much-quoted saying of Chairman Morita is that the typical Japanese company president is old, deaf, and silent. Mr Morita himself, at 61, is patently none of those, and in his early days his aggressive style led Sony into that Japanese rarity, an imitation.

"All the members of a company must always work together to make their company competitive. In a Japanese company, everybody knows they are in the same boat. It is not old Japanese tradition; it is a basic principle of the economic system, and a very simple principle. I am wondering why you in Britain have forgotten it."

He despairs of much of British industry, although not of Sony's colour television factory at Bridgend in South Wales. And he was

sufficiently impressed by British education to send his two sons to English boarding schools. "I thought Japanese high school had lost discipline. But still your schools keep discipline." Well, some of them!

After years spent living in the United States, Mr Morita now lives a western-style existence at home in Japan. But he is no aristoteleian millionaire; he comes from a long line of wealthy sake brewers in the provincial town of Nagoya.

"I am reliably told," confided Mr Bayley later, "that he speaks with a thick Nagoya accent; it's the Japanese equivalent of broad Geordie." Mr Bayley had been banished from his own office while the chairman conferred with the managing director of his British operation; through the sound-proof glass, it looked deeply serious.

Mr Morita re-emerged to have his picture taken beside one of his latest products, a television system that you buy in pieces, like a hi-fi set, another Morita marketing ploy that ensures separate profits on the television tube, the tuner, and the speakers.

"Now tell me," he said to The Times photographer with a wry smile, "Why do you use a Japanese camera?"

Alan Hamilton

THE TIMES DIARY

Carlsberg, conscious of its Danish origins, claims that modern ringing was started by H. C. Mortensen in Denmark in 1899, and tells me they are 1,000 qualified ringers. Britain uses 20 sizes of rings. I take no more responsibility for these facts than I do for that assertion that they can call the wagtail Carlsberg Special Breed.

It may not be the best advertisement, but pied wagtails prefer lager. At least 2,000 of them roost among the empty crates and kegs in the yard of Carlsberg's brewery, which has become one of the country's biggest ringing centres for the birds.

supposedly tailor-made for the toothless, since it means pulling funny faces. Other fixtures include windsurfing, paragliding, the re-enactment of maritime punishments, a fish-filletting contest and one man's attempt to eat a whole shark. The celebrations will last a fortnight.

Voice of America

On May 15 bitterns, marsh harriers, golden plovers, turtle doves and nightingales in East Anglia all become fair game. Teams from Country Life and the Fauna and Flora Preservation Society will be competing, with the aid of Porsche and Aston Martin cars, for a new British bird-watching record. The object is to spot more than 147 species in 24 hours.

Since the bird-watchers will themselves be watched through the day by several television crews as they career from the coastal marshes to Thetford forest, and Abbott reservoir, it would not be too surprising if the birds all took cover.

The coupling is Reagan's first dramatic radio broadcast, in the little-remembered Warner Academy series of 1938. The

Bill Oddie, of The Goodies, is one of the FFFP team. A keen bird-watcher, and suitably manic personality for this enterprise, he has written learned articles on bird identification and in Bill Oddie's Little Black Book made a serious attempt to explain what makes bird watchers do it.

Purple patch

A ghost from Indira Gandhi's past has been haunting official receptions heralding the start of the Festival of India. The appearance of the supposedly disgraced Vidya Charan Shukla, her controversial former information minister, the man who imposed censorship in India during the emergency, has surprised many members of the British Indian community. Shukla, who as president of the All-Indian Badminton Association says he is only here for the All England Badminton Championships, has raised eyebrows even higher by sporting mauve tints in his hair.

Flight plans

The Pope will be excused the oath of allegiance to the Queen when he accepts the freedom of the city of Cardiff during his visit to the Welsh capital in June. As leader of the world's Roman Catholics the Pope could not promise his obedience to the Head of the Church of England. And as a head of state he could not swear his fidelity to the head of another. So the oath will be omitted, when the Pope becomes the fifty-fourth person to receive the honour.

Papal dispensation

By writing about Tom Bradford, PHS does not mean to imply that tomorrow's Boat Race is likely to bring him much extra work. Bradford, now 80, has been hand-painting commemorative oars for Cambridge's victorious rowers since 1923.

Bradford became a sign-painter after attending Birmingham School of Art. "My headmaster said I was not too bright but if I kept to hand-painting and heraldry I would get a living," he says. In fact he paints hundreds of oars a year, not only for Cambridge universi-

Three ways to keep the Apaches from our schools

The independent schools have set up an action committee under the chairmanship of Frank Fisher, the former Master of Wellington, to organize their defence against political attack. It is the latest step in a process that began with the founding of the Headmasters' Conference in 1869.

Schools that have little in common other than their independence and that not so long ago were divided by the unattractive obsession with pecking order that characterizes the private sector, are standing shoulder to shoulder like settlers who can ill afford nice distinctions of rank when the Apache appear on the sky-line.

Labour — like the Apache — propose to reduce their victims by stages. When the removal of charitable status and the imposition of school fees has weakened the independent sector by putting some schools out of business and making the rest so exclusive that they can be finished off without public outcry, the charging of any fees for education will be proscribed.

The independent schools are right to take the threat seriously. In the past, the war cry of Mr Roy Hattersley may have looked like being translated into action dancing round the totem pole of private education was just part of growing up in the Labour movement. But Labour's mood has changed. It is not simply a question of a swing in opposition to the public schools, by their enthusiastic welcome to the Assisted Places Scheme, have identified themselves unequivocally with the Conservative Party so that even moderate Labour MPs now find it difficult to argue against abolition.

The Action Committee is concentrating on defence against the first stage of Labour's attack. It may succeed in building what it believes to be a secure legal stockade, but it is unrealistic to think that Labour on the warpath will be so easily deterred. The only sure defence is a public opinion that is sufficiently aroused to see an attack on private education as an attack on its own liberty.

That is not the case at the moment, despite opinion polls showing a majority against abolition. It is one thing to say you are against settlers being wiped out by the Apache and quite another to be willing to go to their aid. The challenge facing the Action Committee is how to transform passive into active support.

There are three ways in which this might be achieved. The first is to make common cause with other groups, such as private medicine, who are likely to be next on Labour's list. The committee will need to ensure that the pupils who move to independent schools at public expense really need to do so.

If the independent schools concentrate on the urgent and specific need for A-level courses, they could — individually or collectively — raise the money to meet that need by public appeal to industry, trusts and foundations. They would also do much to dispel the cynicism about their motives that the Assisted Places Scheme has provoked. Most important of all they would win more active support from a public that has no particular reason to love them but that might be persuaded to defend institutions that serve a national and not just a sectional interest.

John Rae
The author is Head Master of Westminster School
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Almost exactly

After emerging from South Kensington tube station into Exhibition Road he was heard to complain: "I can't find my way through the police!" Eventually he and a colleague managed to negotiate their way to the reception on the mezzanine floor through the museum's kitchens. Subsequently he had difficulty trying to find his way from the reception to the exhibition on the first floor. The lift kept closing him.

By mid-February

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COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 25: His Excellency Mr Rolf Thygesen Busch was received in audience by The Queen and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Credence as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary from the Kingdom of Norway to the Court of St James's.

His Excellency was accompanied by the following Members of the Embassy, who had the honour of being presented to Her Majesty: Mr Anders Helseth (Counsellor), Mr Jens Breivik (Counsellor), Mr Sigmund Ramøy (Counsellor), Mr Hans Storberg (First Secretary), Mr Jørgen Berghardsen (First Secretary), Colonel Carl Langlie (Defence Attaché), Lieutenant-Colonel Tore Medhus (Assistant Defence Attaché) and Mr Jan Enger (Commercial Counsellor).

Mrs Busch had the honour of being received by The Queen.

Sir Michael Palmer (Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs), who had the honour of being received by Her Majesty was present, and the Gentleman of the Household in Waiting were in attendance.

Sir Michael Palmer had the honour of being received by The Queen upon his retirement as Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Head of the Diplomatic Service.

Mr E. A. J. Ferguson was received in audience by The Queen and kissed hands upon his appointment as Her Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary at Cape Town.

Mrs Ferguson had the honour of being received by the Queen.

Sir Hugh Casson (President of the Royal Academy of Arts) had the honour of being received by Her Majesty and submitted the business of the Royal Academy.

Mrs Sybil Hutchinson had the honour of being received by The Queen upon his retirement as Secretary of the Royal Academy of Arts.

The Queen visited the Home Office this afternoon to mark the Bicentenary and received by the Secretary of State for the Home Department (the Right Hon William Whitelaw, MP) and the Permanent Secretary (Sir Brian Cubbon).

Her Majesty unveiled a commemorative plaque, toured the Bicentenary exhibition and met members of the Home Office staff.

The Duchess of Grafton, Sir William Heseltine and Squadron Leader Adam Wise were in attendance.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh gave Reception this evening to winners of The Queen's Awards for Export and Technology in 1981 at which The Prince of Wales and The Duke of Kent were present.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron and Twelfth Man of the Lord Taverners this morning at Buckingham Palace presented the Schwegmann County Championship Trophy.

His Royal Highness, Chairman of the Royal Society of Arts Committee for the Environment, presided at a meeting of the Committee at Buckingham Palace. Miss Mona Mitchell was in attendance.

Luncheons
HM Government
The Hon Douglas Hurd, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs was host at a luncheon given at 1 Carlton Gardens yesterday in honour of the Ambassador of Sudan.

HM Government
Mr Richard Luce, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, was host at a luncheon given at Lancaster House yesterday in honour of members of the Algerian Inter-Parliamentary Union.

Ministry of Defence
General Sir Edwin Bramall, Chief of the General Staff, entertained members of the FINABEL Committee at a luncheon yesterday at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea. Those present included: General Delamay, Lieutenant-General Major-General Wilder and Lieutenant-Colonel Willers.

Receptions
Canning House

Princess Alexandra and the Hon Angus Ogilvy attended a reception given last night at 2 Belgrave Square by Viscount Caldecote, President of the Hispanic and Luso-Brazilian Council, and Viscountess Caldecote.

The guests included the Peruvian Charge d'Affaires and Sra. de Lecaros, members of the Peruvian Embassy, Viscount and Viscountess Montgomery of Alamein, Sir David and the Hon Lady Muirhead, Lady Bowes, and members of the Hispanic and the Latin American trade advisory group and their ladies.

The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Westminster

The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Westminster were hosts yesterday evening at a reception given at City Hall for representatives of amenity societies, housing organizations, tenants and residents associations and churches and schools in Westminster.

British Federation
Mr Christopher Benson, President of the British Property Federation, held yesterday at 35 Cavendish Place, SW1. Among the guests were members of the Government, Members of Parliament and representatives from a wide range of companies and organizations involved in property.

Dinners

Territorial Auxiliary and Volunteer Reserve Association for Greater London

The Lord Mayor of Edinburgh, Colonel-in-Chief of the Army Cadet Force attended a dinner given by the TAVR Association at the Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea.

High Admiralty officers, including Sir Philip, the Mayor of Kensington and Chelsea, Colonel the Earl of Northesk, Sir John and Lady Heseltine, Sir Alan and Lady Heseltine, Sir Alan and Lady Heseltine, and the Greater London TAVR Association and others from the Greater London TAVR Association.

Justices' Clerks' Society

The President of the Justices' Clerks' Society, Mr B. T. Harris, and members of the Council gave a dinner at Gray's Inn last night, in addition to past presidents and

afternoon unveiled the "Defenders' Memorial" at Westminster Abbey where His Royal Highness was received by the Dean (the Very Reverend Edward Carpenter).

Major John Cargin was in attendance.

His Royal Highness, Colonel-in-Chief of the Army Cadet Force, then examined and inspected the Territorial Auxiliary and Volunteer Reserve Association for Greater London at the Duke of York's Headquarters, London, SW1.

The Duke of Edinburgh was received upon arrival by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Greater London (the Baroness Phillips), the Mayor of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea (Councillor A. Stevenson) and the Chairman of the Association (Colonel G. S. P. Carson).

Major the Hon Andrew Wigram was in attendance.

The Prince of Wales, Duke of Cornwall, this morning attended a meeting of the Isles of Scilly Council at 10, Buckingham Gate.

CLARENCE HOUSE

March 25: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother this afternoon visited King's College Hospital for a ceremony to mark the building of the Variety Club Children's Hospital.

Her Royal Highness, Mrs John Mulholland and Sir Martin Gilliat were in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE

March 25: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon today opened Cardiff and in the morning opened the Extension to Velindre Hospital.

Her Royal Highness was later entertained at luncheon on the Chairwoman of Glamorgan Area Health Authority.

The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, this afternoon visited the University Hospital of Wales and presented Prizes to Students at the Combined Training Unit.

Her Royal Highness, who travelled in an aircraft of The Queen's Flight, was attended by Mrs Alastair Aird and Major The Lord Napier and Ettrick.

KENSINGTON PALACE

March 25: Princess Anne, Dutchess of York, this afternoon visited the Greater Manchester Police Training School, Sedgeley Park, Bury, and later visited the East Lancashire Police for Ex-Servicemen, Broughton House, Salford.

Her Royal Highness travelled in an aircraft of The Queen's Flight.

Mrs Jane Egerton-Warburton was in attendance.

The Duchess of Gloucester was present this evening at the Royal Charity Film Gala Evening of *Evil Under the Sun* in aid of The Mountbatten Memorial Trust.

Romsey See Venture, Southampton.

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honorary members, the guests included:

\$45,109 Lord Hailsham of St Marlebone, CH, Lord Elwyn-Jones, CH, Lord Lane, Lord Denning, Sir Geoffrey Howe, QC, Sir John Arnold, Sir Thomas Skyrme, Sir Thomas Hetherington, QC, Sir Whiford Burne, Sir Bryan Roberts, QC, Lady Ruth, Dr Denis Gray, Mr Barry Rose, Mrs E. E. Parkes, Mr Andrew Leggate, QC, and Mr D. A. Marshall.

Reform Club

The Speaker of the House of Commons, Mr George Thomas, was the guest of honour at a dinner held at the Reform Club on Wednesday to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the passing of the Great Reform Act. Mr Peter D. Brown was in the chair.

Council of Engineering

The 26th Graham Clark Lecture was given last night by Sir Alan Halsall, Permanent Under-Secretary of State, Department of Education and Science, on "Education, Industry and Society". Later he was a guest at a dinner given by the officers of the CBI at the Institution of Civil Engineers.

Leathersellers' Company

The Lord Mayor, accompanied by Mr Sheriff Eskenzi, was entertained at dinner given by the Master, Wardens and court of assistants of the Leathersellers' Company at Leathersellers' Hall on March 24.

Scientific Instrument Makers Company

The Scientific Instrument Makers' Company held their Spring dinner at Scientific Instrument Makers' Hall last night. The guests were received by the President, Mr S. S. Carde, and the Senior Warden, Mr R. A. Jennings. The principal guest and speaker was Professor J. E. Salmon, of the Council for National Academic Awards, and other guests included the members of the Council, the Hon. Sir Alan Halsall, Mr Alan Halsall, and the Tobacco Pipe Makers' Companies, the Principal of St Edmund Hall, Oxford and the Director of the Scientific Instrument Research Association.

Service dinners

RECRPS

The Corps of Royal Engineers held a guest night in the RE Headquarter Mess, Brompton, yesterday. The Chief Royal Engineer, Lieutenant-General Sir Alan Wilson, attended. The principal guests included Viscountess Montagu of Brandon, Sir Richard Powell, Air Marshal Sir David General B. T. Harris, Major-General D. C. Thorne, Air Commodore B. J. Jackson, Mr G. Lincoln, Colonel B. A. C. Maude, and General C. D. Evans.

Officers of the Royal Corps of Transport held a dinner last night at the Royal Corps of Transport Headquarters Mess, Aldershot. The Director General of Transport and Movements, Major-General W. M. Allen, presided and the principal guests were:

Lieutenant-General Sir Paul Travers, Lieutenant-General B. C. Gordon-Lennox, and G. W. Smith, Mr John H. Hogg, R. K. Rayward, Major (Rtd) F. Morris.

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English

Television

Awaiting terrors

Try and relax, girl, for God's sake... right, goodnight then mate... you okay, cocker?... goodness boy... goodnight." With these homely words Bruce Anderson took what could easily have been final leave of his wife and three sons during last night's Forty Minutes (BBC2). Shortly afterwards, bathed, shaved and sterilized within an inch of his life, Anderson was turned back at the launch pad, to drag through many more days waiting.

The heart which he might have inherited was awarded to Vaju Manek. Similarly purined and kitted out like a specimen for the journey that would take on break Manek's wife ran up and laid her hands on his protuberant hood as he was "wheeling away: "My love, I love you, my darling, bye-bye." As viewers will discover next week, that leave-taking was final: Manek died the following day.

Did anyone watch *Waiting for a Heart* without flinching? I doubt it very much, despite the current glut of programmes on surgery and terminal disease. The events it portrayed were simply too awe-inspiring for ordinary mortals to gaze on in comfort. In this dark world men crawled about in terror, waiting for the phone to bring news of a fatal accident and the consequent chance of escape it held out for them. It was a world of heroic courage, cruel disappointments and passionate family devotion.

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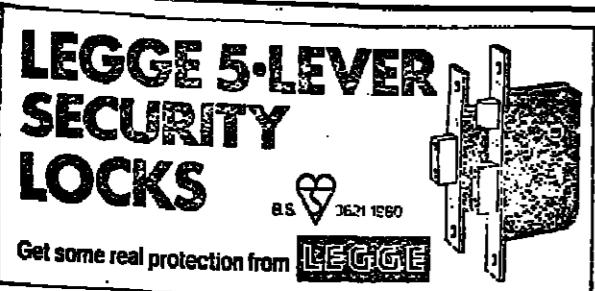
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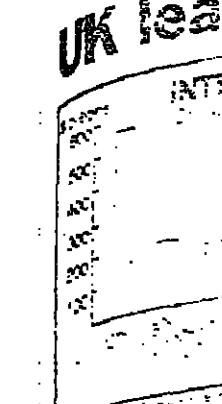
Firm tone

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, March 15 Dealings End, Today. \$ Contango Day, March 29. Settlement Day, April 5.

5 Forward bargains are permitted on two previous day

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Price Chg/pence % P/E

1981/82 High Low Company

Price Chg/pence % P/E

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL

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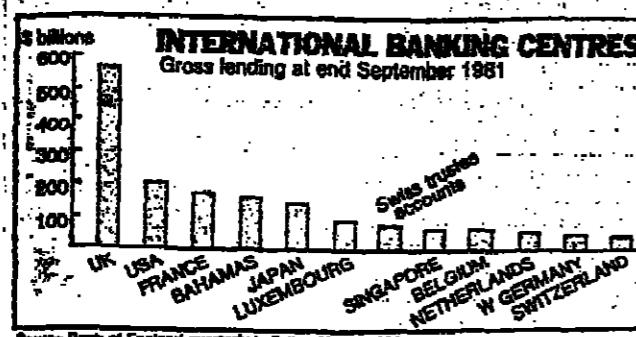
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BUSINESS NEWS

JOURNAL OF THE TIMES

UK leads the world



Source: Bank of England quarterly bulletin - March 1982

The United Kingdom is the world's biggest international banking centre, with more than a quarter of the market. This is more than twice the share of the United States and more than three times that of France. The United Kingdom has been gaining market share in recent years after losing to newer centres in the early 1970s. But new rules introduced in December to encourage international banking could pose a challenge.

US investment sought

Thirty American electronics companies are discussing further investment in Britain with the Department of Industry. Mr John MacGregor, Parliamentary Secretary of State for Industry, told a conference of American industrialists in London yesterday that Britain is overwhelmingly the preferred location for American electronics companies. Since 1980 five groups have decided to establish manufacturing facilities in the United Kingdom and 12 more have indicated an intention to expand existing British operations.

N Ireland expected to lag

Northern Ireland will recover more slowly from the recession than the rest of the United Kingdom, according to a detailed post-Budget assessment by the influential Economical Council which advises Mr James Prior, the Ulster Secretary. Unemployment will continue to rise by 1,000 a month taking the rate to 25 per cent. A cut in jobless totals is unlikely before 1984, the council says. It calls for more spending on house construction and industrial development.

Machinetool sales down 30 per cent

The machinetool industry's sales were 30 per cent lower in 1981 than in 1980, according to the Department of Trade figures published yesterday. Home sales fell 35 per cent. New export orders, however, remained steady during the year. Engineering industry's new orders recovered strongly last year with the orders total at the end of 1981 reaching 11 per cent higher than a year earlier.

• Daily production of crude oil by United States petroleum companies totalled 8.7m barrels in the week ended March 19, unchanged from a week earlier but up from 8.6m barrels in the corresponding year-earlier week.

New candidate

Herr Ernst Breit, 57, head of the German postal workers' union, is likely to be the next chairman of the German Trade Union Federation (DGB). He was adopted last night as the choice of the 17 DGB unions in place of Herr Alois Pfeiffer who withdrew under fire for making personal investments in the West Berlin property market.

• EEC industrialists' confidence in the strength of their companies weakened in February, breaking last year's upward trend, an EEC Commission survey said.

• The Dutch seasonally adjusted index of industrial orders in March was unchanged at 97 (base January 1978) in February, compared with January.

MARKET SUMMARY

ICI warning hits shares

LONDON EXCHANGE

FT Index: 55.9, down 2.7
FT Gilts: 68.91, down 0.22
FT All-Share: 342.02, down 2.02
Bargains: 23,047

Suggestions from the directors of ICI that they may make a cash call to shareholders later in the year pushed shares in the chemical giant down 8p to 318p.

The warning, together with concern about the group's petrochemicals division, came at an analysts' meeting when the company said it hoped to restore the 1980 level of 23p a share.

Elsewhere it was trading news and special situations which added the sparkle to a quiet day's trading. In the FT 30, ending the day 2.7 down at 569.9.

Tour operator D M Lancaster, better known as Club 18-30, put on 8p to 31p as the company admitted it had received a bid approach. Market speculations suggest that this will be at 33p a share but Mr Neil Scott, chairman of Owners Abroad, denied any involvement.

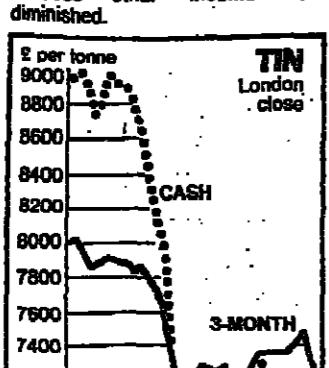
Imperial Group shed 1p to 92.4p at Geoffrey Kent, chairman, told shareholders that he was confident of seeing much improved pretax profits in the first half of the current year.

Gilt remained out of favour with losses of up to 2p across the board in thin trading.

COMMODITIES

Tin resumed its decline yesterday after a brief period of consolidation. Cash metal tumbled by 10p to end the day at 1,150 a tonne while three-month tin was £64 lower at £7,302. The market is wary of the continued uncertainty within the International Tin Council about whether to impose quotas on members.

Cocoa, firmed on near-term supply tightness, March rose £15 to £1,025 a tonne and May put on £10 to £1,026. Dealers are more confident that producers are not about to release cocoa just because other income has diminished.



TODAY

Board meetings: Interim: Capsules, Cope Allman, Mansons Finance Trust, Pifco, Sanderson Murray and Elder, Stothert and Pitt. Finals: Hinger Investments, Charles Hurst, Molins.

CURRENCIES

• The French franc was volatile but most currencies traded narrowly. The dollar strengthened on rising Eurodollar rates, while the pound fell in thin trading.

LONDON CLOSE

£1.7900 down 95 points
Index 91.4 unchanged
DM 4.3100
Fr F 11.2250
Yen 440.50
Dollar
Index 115.2 up 0.4
DM 2.3900 up 35 pts
Gold
\$327.00 down \$5.00

MONEY MARKETS

• The Bank bought £622m of bills outright to relieve a forecast shortage of £550m. Its dealing rates were unchanged.
Domestic rates:
Base rates: 13 per cent
3 month interbank 13% 1/2
Euro-currency rates
3 month dollar 14 15/16-15
3/16
3 month DM 9% 8/16
3 month FR 28 1/2-28

Tough stance gives franc further lift

From Charles Hargrove,
Paris, March 25

The franc recovered further on the exchanges after a close of dealing today, confirming the reversal of the downward trend of the past week.

This is partly due to categorical opposition from M. Jacques Delors, Finance Minister, to any devaluation or adjustment of currencies within the European Monetary System, and to the four-point increase in the money market rate in the past 10 days. It was again raised by one point to 18 per cent yesterday.

Additional exchange control measures, including the reduction from one month to 15 days of the delay for repatriation of foreign currency from export earnings, also helped to consolidate the limited recovery of the currency.

While the dollar closed high on the exchanges, at FF6,2445 after 6,229 on Wednesday, the Deutsche mark slipped to 2,611 from 2,629.

Sterling was resilient at 11.24. The Bank of France is not due to intervene on the exchange markets.

The dispelling of fears of a crash devaluation after the bad results of the local elections last Sunday had a beneficial effect on the Paris Bourse, where shares rose by an average of just 1 per cent.

The Bank of France is prepared to raise the money

market rate still further to attract investors and defeat speculators.

The reversion to high interest rates, however, is a double-edged weapon. It could lead the banks to seek authorization to increase their own lending rates, a step that would diametrically oppose the Government's policy of encouraging investments and stimulating economic activity, but the defence of the franc is the first priority.

The slowdown of economic activity in January is confirmed by the latest figures of the government's statistical office, which show that industrial production fell by 3 per cent compared with December, after three months of a sharp recovery at the rate of 4 per cent a year.

But M. Delors remains confident that the gap will grow by 3 per cent this year, and industrial production by 4 per cent.

The dollar strengthened despite higher Eurodollar deposit rates as worries grew yesterday that American interest rates could rise in the near future. Today's United States money supply figures are expected to show a small increase rather than the hoped-for fall and the month of April could see a bulge in monetary growth because of the timing of social security payments and tax rebates.

Up to £250m of business could be lost to British companies as a result of the virtual freeze on all imports imposed earlier this week by the Nigerian government.

The nation is one of Britain's largest markets, with British goods accounting for more than one fifth of the country's non-oil imports. Total shipments from the UK last year were £1,500m.

The £250m estimate was made yesterday by the confederation of British Industry, which said that thousands of large and small companies would be affected by the two-month moratorium on imports. In addition the Nigerian subsidiaries of British companies may face difficulties in importing parts and spares.

The action has been taken against the background of falling oil production, which has been halved to 630,000 barrels a day in the past week, and the sharp drop in oil revenue. Faced with the slump in world oil prices Nigeria's foreign exchange

reserves have been seriously depleted to \$2,800m enough to cover imports for only two months.

Professor Green Nwankwo of the Nigerian Central Bank was quoted by Nigerian newspapers as saying that imports for which paperwork had been completed before the directives were issued would be unaffected.

These boys from Trinity School, Carlisle, won one of the five star prizes in the Department of Industry's second schools computer competition with a computer-controlled robot called Fred. The other winners were from Braintree, Essex, Norwich, Sandwell, West Midlands, and Port Glasgow. One hundred schools won microcomputers in the competition, but these five schools also received a graphics board and the required computer programs, a colour monitor and a printer. Five special schools, at Bognor Regis, Bedfordshire, Cambridge, Cirencester, Coventry and Belfast, will receive systems adapted for their use.

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Upbeat tempo returns to Ferguson's one-man band

Growth after switch in direction

BSR, the West Midlands audio and electronic group, is now firmly re-established as a growth company. It has just announced 1981 profits of £4.5m, against a loss of £1.6m the previous year. The stock market is now tuning its expectations for 1982: the range seems to be £11m to £14m with a doubling of the 1p dividend paid this year (Sally White writes).

While the shares stayed around 78p yesterday against a high of 88p and a low of 69p — there were split reactions in the City. The absence of a rights issue brought relief, although with gearing at more than 80 per cent of

changes in the main market of North America was known to be falling because of the recession there. The switch of emphasis to building a wider range of higher-technology products, restructuring the group, and other changes largely offset these fears.

Since Mr John Ferguson gave up his attempt to show that BSR basically his creation, was not a one man band, the group has been reorganising so that substantially more is being spent on expanding manufacturing in the Far East.

There has been the now familiar West Midland story of closures and cutbacks: this is included in the £5.7m spent in closures last year. A couple of years ago Mr Ferguson decided to give up being a chairman of Associated Engineering to be able to tackle the slump in growth at BSR without distraction.

Last year the company committed itself to a decisive move away from the consumer products with which it had so long been identified. It bought out the remaining 46 per cent minority interest in Astec, a Hongkong-based manufacturer of power units for micro-computers.

That followed the purchase of Capetronics, which makes consumer electronics, but had the special appeal of being able to produce peripheral equipment such as monitors and printers. These two acquisitions were responsible for the increase in BSR's gearing.

As the analysis of trading profit shows the electronic side of the group is fuelling the recovery, the houseware, and industrial sides are still lagging. "As regards the houseware division, the board is hopeful for an improvement in profitability in 1982. In industrial division it is anticipated that this division will show a real improve-



Ferguson: He tackled the slump without any distractions

ment over 1981", BSR's statement says.

Sales of audio equipment are still showing a slightly better performance in this country, Europe and Japan, but the remarks that are made about the increasing burden of rates and fuel costs, is creating guesses about more closures.

It would be optimistic to expect a similar improvement to that shown last year, BSR say.

The forecasts put the rating at between 14 and 17 times, which is still demanding.

OTT springs a surprise

Shipping shares took a temporary turn for the better on Ocean Transport and Trading. Figures: but a closer reading showed the

profits owed a lot to property sales and currency items, rather than to any signs of improvement in bulk shipping prospects. (Drew Johnston writes)

Ocean Transport and Trading yesterday surprised the City with pretax profit figures about £9m higher than expected at £3.4m against forecasts of around £2.6m for the year to December 1981. Last year's profits were £3.5m.

At the half-way stage, profits were only £1.5m and the company forecast the second half would be around the same.

Turnover was up from £594.5m to £672.7m, and trading profit moved ahead to £39.2m from £30.6m last time.

The share price rose 4p yesterday in reaction to the surprise, but the mood among analysts was unenthusiastic.

They attributed the unexpected £9m boost in profits to the weakness of sterling in the second half of 1981, property disposals and early repayment of outstanding loans. Ocean was more inclined to spread responsibility for the increase to other trade-related factors such as the best-ever contribution from Ocean Incaphe, the 60 per cent owned subsidiary, which services offshore oil rigs, and reduced costs in the liquified natural gas business.

But analysts fear that 1982 may see a standstill in profitability with the threat of upset in Ocean's Nigerian business in the wake of cuts in oil production there.

Another uninspiring sign was the fall in the share of profits from associates from £22.2m last time to £13.5m. Overseas Contractors, which is 34 per cent owned, was particularly badly hit by dock strikes both at home and overseas.

The forecasts put the rating at

17.5p, and the shares closed down 2p at 173p to keep the yield in double figures at 10 per cent.

ADL's umbrella can be split into two divisions — Scotch whisky distilling, blending and bottling activities which bring in rum blending and bottling from Morton and liquor and tobacco retailing through the 300 Liquorave stores operating within the Kwiksave supermarket group.

With the Scotch whisky trade still severely in the doldrums, the

group's Glen Scotia distillery has been heavily losing money. Capacity was reduced drastically last summer but present production levels, helped by a strong export market, should see the distillery back to break-even this year. Operating margins remain under pressure. Nevertheless, the Morton rum activities, and bringing in extra whiskies have helped to achieve a considerably higher usage factor at the distillery.

But it goes to show, with the fall in prices and production of oil in the North Sea fields, Mr Rolf Presthus, the Finance Minister, told a local Conservative Party meeting in Oslo.

Profits from the Liquorave stores were ahead of last year and further savings should slip through in the full year as ADL manages to fully integrate all its new activities and probably more to come. Shareholders receive a 10 per cent rise in the half-time dividend to 1.07p but the share's slipped 3p to 80p.

The newspapers' continued struggle to hold their profits is reflected in United Newspapers' figures. For 1981, the group, which publishes Punch, Yorkshire Post and other regional newspapers, reported pretax profits at £3.64m against £4.54m in 1980. The dividend stays at 1.2p after a final

down 2p at 173p to keep the yield in double figures at 10 per cent. Earnings per share are down from 20.8p to 14.8p. The profit was after writing off £163,000 as bad debt, mainly a failed advertising agency. Also written off were costs of participating in a bid for North Sea exploration rights. In the year £374,000 was invested in the new Yorkshire and Tyne Tees television companies.



NORWAY

Norway has cut its oil and gas revenue estimates for the next four years to Kr60,000m (£5.455m) from Kr70,000m (£5.454m) a year ago.

The cut is mainly due to the fall in prices and production of oil in the North Sea fields, Mr Rolf Presthus, the Finance Minister, told a local Conservative Party meeting in Oslo.

The Canadian Federal Government could lose between \$22,000m and \$30,000m (£12,200m and £16,600m) in energy revenues in the next five years if the current oil glut triggers a fall in the world price, according to an Ottawa forecasting company.

• A Canadian Senate Committee has said all tariff and non-tariff barriers between Canada and the United States should be dismantled by the mid-1990's.

JAPAN Construction orders received by 43 leading Japanese construction companies rose 21 per cent last month to a seasonally adjusted \$10.81bn (£1.851m) from an upwards-revised 670,290m yen in January, when they were down 18.4 per cent from December.

FRANCE Song France will build a second magnetic tape factory to meet growing demand. The factory which will cost Fr141m (£13m) will be built in Dax, near Bayonne, where Song's first plant capable of producing 40 million audio cassette tapes a year has been in operation since October, 1980.

AUSTRALIA

Australian coal output and exports reached record levels in 1981. Output was estimated at 111.70 million tonnes after 93.41 million in 1980, with production of seable coal at 91.90 million tonnes (76.30 million).

• Australia's only raw steel maker, The Broken Hill Company, said production in February was the lowest since 1980.

BELGIUM

Belgium's wholesale price index for February rose 0.7 per cent from January in a marked slowdown of producer price inflation. In January, the comparative increases were 1.3 per cent in a month and 8.9 per cent in a year.

seven points during the afternoon from a decline of a couple of points.

Advancing issues were about 8 to 5 ahead of losers. Volume picked up in late trading, reaching 52.2 million shares compared with 38.3 million yesterday.

Word that the administration will talk with the Democrats on Capitol Hill about the budget accounted for some of the market's firmness, analysts said.

WALL STREET

New York, March 25 — Stocks closed with a solid gain although they were below their best levels of the session. A resumption of some mild profit-taking was evident.

The Dow Jones industrial average was up 4.29 points at 827.65, more than making up yesterday's decline. The index had pushed to a gain of

Mar. 25 Mar. 24 Mar. 23

1981 1980 1981 1980 1981 1980

	RESULTS IN BRIEF	1981	1980	1981	1980
Premium income	£1,514.5	£1,171.5	£15.4m	£19.1m	£19.1m
Investment Income	201.0	151.4	12.6%	16.5%	16.5%
Loan interest	(9.3)	(8.6)	1.2%	1.6%	1.6%
Life profits	191.7	142.8	13.6%	12.6%	12.6%
Underwriting result	17.3	15.2	10.0%	9.0%	9.0%
Associated companies' earnings	(131.9)	(57.3)	11.4%	10.0%	10.0%
Profit before taxation	81.7	103.2	25.0%	27.0%	27.0%
Taxation and minorities	(13.7)	(26.7)	25.0%	25.0%	25.0%
Profit attributable to shareholders	68.0	76.5	23.0%	23.0%	23.0%
Earnings per share	16.54p	18.61p	10.0%	10.0%	10.0%
Dividend per share (net)	11.80p	10.80p	9.0%	9.0%	9.0%
Shareholders' funds	£824m	£769m	7.5%	7.5%	7.5%

who have been attracted by an insurance market which they consider to be more stable and rewarding than those of most other countries. This has led to intense competition between insurers trying to protect their existing business and in consequence we found difficulty in securing adequate premium levels on renewals.

Life profits in the UK amounted to £8.0m (£7.8m).

Netherlands The overall contribution to profit from Delta-Lloyd, our Netherlands subsidiary, was again most satisfactory, showing an increase of approximately 13% after allowing for changes in rates of exchange. Although the underwriting loss increased to £7.7m from £3.0m in 1980 this deterioration was more than offset by higher investment income at £26.2m (1980 £18.1m) and life profits of £8.5m (1980 £6.9m). Non-life premium income increased by 2% (1980 8%) in local currency.

Canada Underwriting experience in Canada was worse than market expectations and produced for us a loss of £23.0m (1980 loss £11.9m). Investment income increased to

£15.4m (1980 £9.1m). Premium income in local currency increased by 12% (1980 16%).

In both the major classes, motor and personal property, we implemented substantial premium rate increases during 1981, in some cases as high as 40%. Further significant premium rate increases will be necessary before the results of our Canadian operations return to a satisfactory level.

CONCLUSION

1981 proved to be a particularly difficult year for the insurance industry for reasons which we had anticipated and to which I drew the attention of shareholders in my 1980 Review. These reasons were intense competition and over-capacity in the market, induced in large part by the unusually high rates of interest available to insurance companies from the investment of their technical reserves. These conditions prevailed throughout the year in all major markets and particularly in North America from which, in sterling terms, we derive some 54% (47% from the United States and 7% from Canada) of our total non-life business. They are likely to continue during 1982. We, nevertheless, hold to our view that our policies which will lead to our regaining a larger market share in the major territories where we operate, remain right, and we intend to maintain them. The strength of our shareholders' funds — 54% of worldwide premiums at the end of the year — gives us a more than adequate financial base on which to continue to expand.

In Canada the underwriting loss was again very bad, worse relatively than in the United States. However, we now have grounds for hope that market conditions there will begin to change for the better in 1982, as rate increases which have been well overdue begin to improve results.

In the United Kingdom and the Netherlands, underwriting results were reasonably satisfactory in prevailing market conditions, but in both these countries the outlook for 1982 is for some further deterioration.

An important benefit already derived from our expansion programme is the contribution to the large increase achieved in our investment income. We expect a further material increase in 1982, depending on the achievement of our aims for continuing premium growth.

Shareholders' profits from our life business again showed an increase in 1981 and there should be a larger contribution from this source in 1982. There will additionally be a special contribution from the balance of life profits from 1981 and earlier years not previously released to profit and loss account, which is estimated to amount to £2.8m and will be released during the first quarter of 1982.

Commercial Union Assurance Company plc

Head Office: St. Helen's, 1 Underhill, London EC3P 3DQ

Chairman: *Frances Sandland*

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INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS NEWS/FOCUS AND COMMENT

PEOPLE

Julia is playing her part

Part-Time Careers (PTC), the diminutive, all-female firm which handles what its name suggests, has just reported a three-fold increase in business for the nine to February, over the previous nine months' period.

According to PTC managing director Julia MacIndoe, the reason for this dramatic upturn is that employers are still reluctant to commit themselves to hiring full-timers, even though the recession appears to be slowing.

It is especially true of personal debt at the end of 1981 was back to the heights last reached in 1973 at the top of the "Barber Boom" when credit abounded as the Heath Government made its notorious dash for growth (see chart).

Estimates by stockbrokers Laing and Cruickshank put personal debt outstanding last year at about 55 per cent of total after-tax incomes, excluding mortgages, and 150 per cent if loans for house purchase are included. At the end of 1980 the corresponding figures were 45 and 170 per cent.

But back in 1973 real incomes were soaring, unemployment was dropping, and interest rates were several points below 1981 levels and barely positive in real terms, bearing in mind expected inflation.

Last year's remarkable surge in consumer borrowing helped the government. It enabled people to maintain their spending in the face of falling real incomes, so preventing the recession from being even deeper. The savings ratio — the proportion of after-tax income saved (or, to be precise, not spent) — fell to below 14 per cent from a record 17 per cent in the third quarter of 1980.

The government is hoping for another fall in the savings ratio this year to offset the impact of a further drop in people's real incomes on consumer spending.

On the other hand the Treasury seems to want this fall in the savings ratio to come about through a reduction in personal savings rather than an increase in borrowing.

The fall last year in the savings ratio would have been far larger if people had not saved more as well as borrowed more. The ratio of liquid assets to personal after-tax income, for example, is the highest for several years.

The problem with extra borrowing is that it has helped to drive a coach and horses through the government's monetary growth targets in particular by swelling the volume of bank lending. Further, to the

character and a very British boy indeed" is how Mr A. W. Barnes, former editor of *The Dandy* remembers the future peer when, as plain George Thomson, he was on the staff of the children's comic in the late 1930s. Although no hint of his Socialist beliefs were apparent in the office, his talent and ambition were. After three years, he became chief sub-editor.

Masterful Mortimer

At the height of the brouhaha over the future of the Council of Engineering Institutions (CEI), doubt existed about whether the organisation would need another chairman. Nevertheless, just voted into the chair is Gerald Mortimer, the mining engineer who was deputy chairman of Consolidated Gold Fields for almost 10 years to 1978 and who is at 63, busy as a consultant.

The Government's new Engineering Council looks unlikely to take over for a couple of years any substantial part of the functions fulfilled by CEI. So Mortimer may well have a relatively quiet year of stewardship, and also see in as his successor Dr Wilfred Eastwood, a structural engineer and consultant.

BSM tends its potato patch

Ever since its formation, the independent British School of Motororing (BSM) has been what could be termed a single-line company. Now the outfit is gearing up for the first major diversification in its 72-year history.

The chosen route is fast food, which BSM is entering with a vengeance that rejoices in the neo-English name of Spud U. Like parlours in Britain, this total should be almost doubled by the end of the year mainly through franchise growth, says Acheson, who spent 16 years with Wimpy and Kentucky Fried Chicken.

Nicholas Cole
NEW APPOINTMENTS

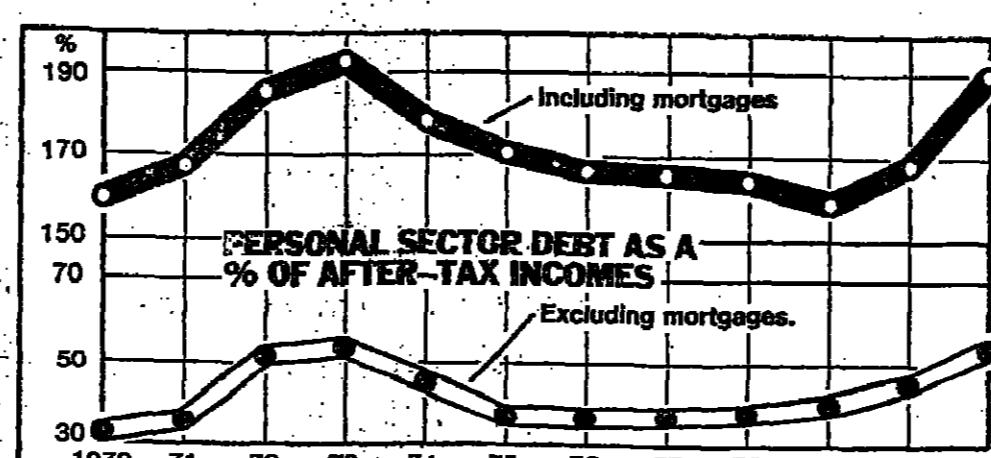
Mr Donald Wilson has been appointed managing director of Rank Xerox UK.

Mr R. N. Dodge-Harrison has been appointed director responsible for packaging and coil coatings of International Paint-Industrial Coatings. Mr C. D. Melia is director responsible for industrial paints and Mr D. Szaa is appointed manufacturing director.

Mr Ronald Heron has been appointed director of public affairs of the Davy Corporation.

Frances Williams

Personal borrowing hits a peak despite the dole queues



The first is known as the "permanent income hypothesis". When people's real incomes change, either up or down, it takes a while for them to adjust to new living standards. In addition, people are naturally more reluctant to take a cut in living standards than to increase them. So when incomes fall, they try to maintain their original standards as long as possible by dipping into savings or borrowing. This will be especially true if they think the fall in income is likely to be only temporary.

Over the three years 1977 to 1980 real after-tax incomes rose by nearly 20 per cent, while national output went up by just 2½ per cent. By 1981 people had got used to the idea of rapidly rising living standards.

When, at the start of 1981, real incomes began to fall, three things happened. First, people kept on borrowing to finance an expected increase in living standards which their incomes no longer justified, so debt ratios rose.

Second, people could not easily run down existing debt which had been built up steadily over the three preceding years. Third, the overall borrowing pattern disguised a growing dichotomy between the experience of different households.

Laing and Cruickshank

estimate that the top 25 per cent of income earners suffered a fall in real incomes from last spring, rather later than others. They are also in general the heaviest borrowers and the ones who rely most on bank lending. A big increase in their borrowing has greatly outweighed reduced borrowing by many other households. Hire purchase and mail order credit, used more by lower income groups, for instance, has fallen sharply over the same period.

The fall in overall real after-tax incomes is anyway in large part due to the rising number of unemployed. Those in work have not suffered much loss of earnings so far and many are better off than ever. Thus retrenchment by those now jobless (who may also be drawing on savings to keep up living standards) may have been disguised by borrowing by those in work.

Laing and Cruickshank

believe that "at current levels of debt consumers are overgeared, overextended and over-bought". They expect borrowing to fall away this year as real incomes continue to drop and households decide not to renew loans when they fall due or borrow any more.

SAVING AND BORROWING

real personal disposable income ratio	from (savings as year earlier % of pdi)	excluding including	excluding including		
% change	(savings as year earlier % of pdi)	mortgages	mortgages		
1980 Q1	2.6	14.1	2.51	41.3	164.2
Q2	1.2	15.9	2.54	42.5	162.1
Q3	3.1	16.9	2.52	41.3	163.1
Q4	-0.9	16.4	2.59	42.5	163.9
1981 Q1	0.4	15.3	2.56	41.3	163.3
Q2	-1.6	13.7	2.71	50.7	182.3
Q3	-3.0	14.3	2.72	52.5	183.3
Q4	na	na	na	54.8	191.4

pdI = personal disposable (after-tax) income. Real pdI = pdI adjusted for inflation.

Sources: Economic Trends, Maccabi, Laing and Cruickshank

Planning the demise of the filing cabinet

TECHNOLOGY: VIDEOEDISCS

By Clive Cookson

Launching videodiscs on to the consumer market is proving an expensive and frustrating business for Philips, the Dutch electronics giant.

Sales of discs and players in North America, where the LaserVision system has been available for nearly three years, have been very disappointing, while the British launch has been postponed progressively because of manufacturing problems at Philips's disc factory in Lancashire — the latest target date is May.

But Philips could still make a fortune out of the technology on which LaserVision is based, even if the system fails on the consumer market. For the great potential of laser recording already lies in the home but not in the office, where it seems likely to become the most compact and cheapest technique for storing vast quantities of information, including computer data and written documents.

The Philips Research Laboratories in Eindhoven have already produced an experimental electronic archive.

called Megadoc, which can record and store the contents of 1.5m A4 pages within the space of a normal office desk. The equivalent amount of paper would fill a row of filing cabinets 60 metres long.

A week ago Philips announced a joint venture with Control Data, the American computer company, to do more work on laser recording systems. The partnership will run two labs: the "optical media laboratory" managed by Philips at Eindhoven will concentrate on the discs themselves, while the "optical peripherals laboratory" run by Control Data in Colorado Springs will develop the machines to record and play back the discs.

The two companies are looking for short-term returns. A Philips spokesman said the aim was to put a commercial system on to the business market within two years.

Many other companies are racing to apply laser recording to mass information



The Philips Megadoc system — 25,000 pages on one disc

storage. Indeed the line-up is longer than in the consumer videodisc market.

Another notable partnership involves Thomson-CSF of France with Xerox of the United States. They have been teamed up since 1980 and also aim to launch a commercial product within two years. Toshiba and Matsushita of Japan and RCA of the United States are among the other companies known to be developing optical storage systems.

All the systems depend on a laser with an extremely fine beam (about one thousandth of a millimetre in diameter) flashing off and on for one-tenth of a second or less. The intense light "burns" microscopic marks along a spiral track on the disc's sensitive recording medium, and the pattern of marks stores the information in the binary code (on and off) used by computers.

However there are major differences between the semi-mass media used by the rival companies. The Philips recorder burns holes into a metal layer of the rare earth

material permanently like a photograph. That is a major difference from the magnetic discs and tapes that can be re-used over and over again.

Although inability to erase may sound like a drawback, the permanence of optical storage will be an advantage in many potential applications. In place of erasable discs, the user gains what Americans call archivability. Information stored on an optical disc will be regarded as a permanent legal record, like ink on paper and unlike magnetic discs or tape which can easily be altered.

Optical storage will be the decade's biggest single development in office technology, according to Mr Victor Poor, vice-president for research and development at Datapoint, the American business systems company. He speaks with relative impartiality, since his firm is not developing a laser disc system (although it will certainly buy in the technology to incorporate in Datapoint products).

The real significance, in Mr Poor's view, is that laser discs are the first electronic storage system that does away with the need to keep office files. He believes that optical storage will work out at about one twentieth of the cost of typewritten paper.

Philips's Megadoc, an experimental application of laser recording, shows how a company could put all its written documents on to optical discs and throw away the paper. It features a reader that can scan an A4 page within a second, transforming the information into about four million electronic bits. A transfer memory, with an input and output rate of four million bits per second, holds the information temporarily before it is fed to the laser recorder which makes the discs.

The laser player reads back the documents on to a flicker-free 240-line display screen. Fine details, including handwriting and pictures, are reproduced "without a single detail being lost," Philips says. Of course a hard copy can be printed out if an old-fashioned paper addict wants one.

If Megadoc is used to store information from paper documents, each disc can hold 25,000 pages. Its capacity to store information generated elec-

tronically on a word processor is far greater and a single disc can then hold up to 500,000 pages.

According to the Philips scenario, the secretary will open the morning post and put everything immediately on an optical disc with the document reader — throwing away the paper. This is in the medium-term, before society is completely electronic, when many individuals and some organisations will still be sending letters on paper.

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Business Editor Sounding a note of caution

To the extent that one can detect an independent Bank of England view on economic prospects this year — and it is harder than usual in the latest edition of the *Quarterly Bulletin* — it is probably rather more cautious than that of the Treasury.

(The Treasury, of course, has been forecasting a rise in GNP this year of 1½ per cent.)

Perhaps the Bank's caution is based largely on a perfectly legitimate concern about how the world economy is going to shape up, together with a certain amount of puzzlement about the behaviour of certain aspects of the British economy.

As far as Britain specifically is concerned, the Bank finds it difficult to explain on conventional criteria the extent of the rise in import penetration over the past two years. But it is clearly a factor that worries it; and in a similar way there is concern to emphasize that an apparently encouraging performance on the export front over the last year looks decidedly less impressive when put in a two-year context.

Elsewhere, the Bank obviously feels uncertain as to whether the personal sector savings ratio will fall sufficiently to offset the impact of lower real disposable incomes on consumer spending; and it would seem to have doubts too as to just how strong the swing in the stock cycle will prove.

But if the Bank feels uncertain as to just how steady a recovery we are likely to see this year, it clearly feels fairly resigned to seeing growth in private sector (and particularly industrial and commercial) loan demand remaining at a relatively high level.

Messels also believe that, contrary to appearances, high interest rates do discourage borrowing. Increased borrowing last year, they suggest, partly because of the huge prior increase in real incomes and partly because of aggressive marketing tactics by the banks. These factors may not persist into this year.

Messels point out that older and more affluent households tend to be net savers while younger poorer ones are net borrowers. The pattern in 1982 could be for those with money to keep their savings high to take advantage of the interest to be earned, while the young are forced to cut back on borrowing.

It is the growing gulf between the haves and have-nots which could well hold the key to what is likely to happen to saving and borrowing over the coming year. With Sir Geoffrey Howe's budget again favouring the affluent, the clever money should perhaps be on a repeat of last year: more money borrowed outweighing more money saved; and stable consumption disguising rising living standards for the lucky and falls for the rest.

No, says the Bank of England, which has followed up its riposte to Kay's Forth and the Governor's Ashridge Lecture nearly 18 months ago with a detailed article in the *Quarterly Bulletin*.

What North Sea oil has done, says the Bank, is

BEMROSE

Success package at Derby

Bemrose Corporation, the Derby-based printing and packaging group, made a strong profits recovery in the year to January 2. Pretax profits increased from £358,000 to £2.3m, on turnover only marginally up at £49.3m, against £48m last year.

At the trading level, profits rose to £3.2m against £1.69m, but interest costs on substantially reduced borrowings — down to 34 per cent from 50 per cent of shareholders' funds — fell from £1.3m to £831,000. Perhaps the most dramatic indicator of recovery was the increase in earnings per share, up from 2.2p to 19.2p. The tax charge also increased from £77,000 to £200,000.

Recovery was also reflected in the current cost pretax profits which turned round from a loss of £1.5m to a profit of £1.38m. This was fully appreciated by the stock market where the share price moved up 20 per cent, or 12p, to 72p.

The company's directors said yesterday that the profits increase was led through raising efficiency and productivity, and reducing costs.

The flexible packaging and transfer prints division, which streamlined its operations in 1980, made a strong

comeback in the year, said Mr David Wiggleworth, chief executive. Overall performance was helped by bringing the loss-making book publishing activities to an end. Losses from this division were £90,000 in 1980.

Capital expenditure, which was restricted during the last 18 months, is being restored on a selective basis, with priority being given to new technology, higher efficiency and the creation of new products for growth markets, especially in the security printing business, he said.

The dividend has been increased to 3.57p gross against last year's 2.14p total.

THOMAS TILLING

£28m expansion

Thomas Tilling, the industrial holding company with a range from insurance to construction, has further expanded its United States interests with two acquisitions at a total cost of £28m.

The group is acquiring Alpha Metals of New Jersey, a specialist manufacturer of solders, fluxes and cleaners, and H and S Supply, which distributes pipes and related equipment to the phosphate industry in Florida.

To finance the acquisitions, 20.39m Tilling ordinary shares were placed at 138p. News of the acquisitions clipped 6p from the Tilling share price to 146p.

These acquisitions are part of a series of United States acquisitions which have amounted to more than \$500m in the last four years as the company aims to achieve up to 40 per cent of its turnover from America.

In the year to December the group as a whole managed only a 4 per cent rise in pretax profits to £73.6m but the proportion of this total coming from the United States almost doubled from 28.9 per cent to 52.3 per cent.

The group, which sees 1982 as a year of consolidation and pushing ahead with its advanced meat technology, is holding the final dividend at 3.39p gross, making a total payment of £6.24p. The shares slipped 5p to 100p.

FAIRVIEW ESTATES

Small rise

Fairview Estates managed a slight rise in pretax profits from £2.7m to £2.83m in the six months to December, with the half-year dividend raised by 5 per cent to 1.89p.

Mr Dennis Cope, chairman, said good progress was being made in creating a balance between industrial and other investment properties.

CAPITAL MARKETS

In its main annual fund raising operation, the Kingdom of Spain has come to the market for \$450m (£250m). The mandate has been awarded to Lloyds Bank International.

The loan is in two branches. The first is for \$150m over eight years carrying a margin of 15 basis points over the United States prime rate for the first four years, and 25 points over prime for the last four years.

On the other \$300m, which is for 10 years, Spain will have to pay 7 per cent over the London Interbank Offered Rate for five years and 7 per cent over prime for the remainder of the maturity.

Lloyds will be lead manager and will be joined in managing the loan by nine other banks. The credit carries a commitment fee of 4 per cent for both branches. The loan is one of the biggest seen on the Euromarket so far this year.

In 1981 Spain borrowed \$500m, but the terms were 7 per cent over Libor for the first six years followed by 5 per cent for the last two years. There was also the choice of paying 4 per cent over United States prime up to a 195,000 ceiling.

Dealers should start on April 1.

Prices now available on Prestel page 48146

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	13%
Barclays	13%
BCCI	13%
Consolidated Crds.	13%
C. Hoare & Co	13%
Lloyds Bank	13%
Midland Bank	13%
Nat Westminster	13%
TSB	13%
Williams & Glyn's	13%

* 7 day deposits on sums of under £10,000, 10% of £10,000 and up to £50,000 11%; £50,000 and over 11.5%.

M. J. H. Nightingale & Co. Limited

27/28 Loyal Lane London EC3R 8EB Telephone 01-621 1212

The Over-the-Counter Market

1981/82

Bank Lloyds Company

Price Change

Interest Due/Op

Yield %

Actual Taxed

1981/82

Bank Lloyds Company

Price Change

Interest Due/Op

Yield %

Actual Taxed

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Part IV: Overseas breeders have exported the choicest stallions and mares causing a sad deterioration in the quality of thoroughbreds

British blood is thinning fast

By Peter Willett

The thoroughbred, as the former United States ambassador to Britain Mr John May Whiteman — a lifelong supporter of racing in both countries — once remarked, is "a creature of blood and heart and spirit". It is this that distinguishes racehorses as a gambling medium from inanimate devices like cards and wheels of fortune, and makes the breeding industry an integral part of the British Turf. Studs in England, Scotland and Wales still provide nearly two-thirds of all the horses in training, in spite of Ireland's special position as a supplier, and her recent growth in yearling imports, particularly from the United States.

British breeders created the thoroughbred and provided the original stock for breeders all over the world. But now the overseas industries have expanded at such a rate that Britain accounts for less than five per cent of the estimated world annual production of 100,000 thoroughbred foals.

Horses from abroad

The decline in the British national wealth, combined with powerful fiscal incentives elsewhere, has enabled breeders overseas notably in the United States, to help themselves to the choicest British stallions and mares. As a result there has been a relative deterioration in the quality of British thoroughbreds.

In recent years the principal British racing stables have been heavily stocked by horses bought — mostly by foreigners attracted by the variety and ambience of British racing — at the main North American yearling sales. In 1981 248, or 35 per cent, of the 709 horses in the six stables that won most races on the flat were sired by stallions stationed outside

England, Scotland and Wales. The percentage is little more than half that for all British stables, and indicates the dependence of the smaller flat racing and jumping stables on home-produced horses.

Some aspects of the 1981 racing scene were favourable for British breeders. British-bred horses won 44, or 45 per cent of the 98 pattern races, the series designed to provide a comprehensive programme of tests for the best horses, compared with 37 of the 100 such races run in 1980. The improvement may have been marginal, but at least represented a reversal of the steady decline of the previous decade.

At the same time trade at the yearling sales was so buoyant that this sector of the market seemed to be recession-proof. A rearrangement of Tattersalls autumn yearling sales programme at Newmarket, giving priority to the Premier Sales of the higher quality yearlings, helped to account for substantially increased prices.

These improvements, however, were largely superficial and do not stand up to analysis. The incidence of success for British-bred horses in pattern races was highest in group three, comprising races of mainly domestic importance, and lowest in group one, comprising the classic and other championship races of international significance. Indeed British-bred horses won only five, one fewer than last year, of the 19 races in group one; Irish-bred horses won twice as many.

The British standard-bearers in group two were Fairy Footsteps in the 1000 Guineas, Cut Above in the St Leger, Count Pahlen in the William Hill Futurity, and Master Willie in the Coronation Cup and the Eclipse.

BLOODSTOCK SALES

1973-4

Year	Sold	Aggregate	Average
Tattersalls October Yearling	728	2,622,710	3,648
1973	680	1,409,640	2,075
1974	597	1,202,220	2,010
1975	567	1,545,938	2,728
1976	552	1,887,947	3,338
1977	561	2,905,987	5,180
1978	574	3,405,310	5,950
1979	558	3,673,310	6,523
1980	652	5,268,280	8,068
1981	573	12,102,820	21,118

Tattersalls November Yearling

1973	443	2,407,555	5,443
1974	407	1,455,650	3,577
1975	500	2,779,410	5,559
1976	451	3,402,920	7,545
1977	450	3,222,820	7,048
1978	527	6,252,570	11,821
1979	524	7,448,400	14,216
1980	478	8,229,800	17,229
1981	378	11,949,500	32,183

Gufo Select and Phoenix

1973	579	2,407,555	4,061
1974	407	1,455,650	3,577
1975	500	2,779,410	5,559
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Tattersalls Houghton Yearling

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All hands to the aid of a shoeless Princess Michael of Kent at Cowes yesterday as she is welcomed aboard Victory, Britain's America's Cup contender. Report, page 17.

Newman appointment infuriates GLC chief

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

An attack on the appointment of Sir Kenneth Newman as the next Commissioner for the Metropolitan Police is made today by Mr Kenneth Livingstone, leader of the Greater London Council.

Writing in *Labour Herald*, of which he is a co-editor, under the headline, *Newman is not the man for London*, Mr Livingstone says that the decision to appoint Sir Kenneth as the successor to Sir David McNee will cause widespread alarm among black Londoners.

He says of Sir Kenneth, former Chief Constable of the Royal Ulster Constabulary: "His experience to be sure is suited to the control of a paramilitary force in a city torn by civil war than as a police chief in a multi-racial city with a parliamentary democracy."

Mr Livingstone adds: "We must demand that Newman's appointment does not proceed, and that the Greater London Council's police committee, with representatives of the London boroughs, be allowed to appoint McNee's replacement."

He writes that Sir Kenneth's background has been in the area of army-style weaponry and paramilitary campaigns against forces feared by the establishment. "We do not want to see police-army methods that have been fashioned to meet the needs of

colonial war in north-eastern Ireland imposed on the streets of London."

The solution to street crime lay in tackling the causes, high unemployment, bad housing, poor education, and institutional racism, rather than in arming the police with the methods of urban warfare.

"We must oppose Newman's appointment because it will inevitably bring exactly the same approach to policing on the streets of London. Five years of Newman could leave the working class areas of our city in much the same state as the Catholic areas in Northern Ireland. The threat of his appointment means that we must redouble our efforts for a democratically accountable police force in London."

Mr Livingstone says that Sir

Francisco Pichetto, said all 17 defendants had been found guilty of taking part in the kidnap.

In accordance with government policy of offering shorter sentences to terrorists who help the police, the leader of the kidnappers, Antonio Savasta, aged 27, was jailed for 16 years.

The court president, Sir

Verona, March 25.—Seventeen Red Brigades terrorists were today sentenced to a total of more than 300 years imprisonment for kidnapping General James Dozier.

The longest sentence—27 years—was passed on Cesare di Lenardo, aged 23, one of

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kidnappers, Antonio Savasta, aged 27, was jailed for 16 years.

The National Gallery has been trying for some years to improve its holdings of French eighteenth century paintings. Were this a genuine Warrean it would have been considered a desirable acquisition. However, an export licence was granted (with the National Gallery as expert advisers). Was an important treasure allowed to slip through the net?

Later he learnt that the Christie's painting was in the hands of a dealer in New York and he encouraged experts from Frankfurt to fly over to see it. They also saw the Paris version and consulted scholars in France and Germany on the comparison between the two works. They concluded in favour of the Christie's version and bought it.

The complications do not rest there. Christie's suggest that a third version, now lost, may once have existed. And since Watteau was not an artist who made a habit of painting more than one version of the same composition (though this was frequent practice with some artists) only one version is likely to be authentic, the other being almost certainly copies, though perhaps contemporary and of good quality.

The evidence for there having been three versions rests on two eighteenth century engravings of the composition. One is by Mercier, which corresponds to the Christie's picture and was reportedly made in London. The other is by Lemoisne, which corresponds to the Paris pic-

ture. Sale room report, page 2

Kidnappers of Dozier are jailed

Why the Germans bought the British Watteau

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

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(though this was frequent

practice with some artists)

only one version is likely to

be authentic, the other being

almost certainly copies, though

perhaps contemporary and of

good quality.

The evidence for there having

been three versions rests on

two eighteenth century engravings

of the composition. One is

by Mercier, which corresponds

to the Christie's picture and

was reportedly made in London.

The other is by Lemoisne, which corresponds to the Paris pic-

ture. Sale room report, page 2

Columbia's touchy colonel picks up buzzing noise

From Piers Ackerman, Johnson Space Centre, Houston, Texas, March 25

Commander Lousma said Tuesday that the noise was similar to that caused by Soviet over-the-horizon radar signals. NASA officials said that they thought the sound may have been ultra high frequency in appearance but a non-NASA pilot said a recording of the noise beamed back from the space shuttle sounded like radar scanning the spacecraft or "painting the ship" in United States Air Force jargon.

The astronauts are still experiencing problems with their lavatory and NASA technicians are working on a model in Houston to see if they can come up with a solution.

"We have a couple more tricks up our sleeves that we could try," a NASA official told the astronauts early today, but Commander Lousma was unimpressed.

"That is a bad choice of words," he said. "Because if you want to try them I'll probably be up to my sleeves." Mission control radioed back that Commander Lousma sounded as if he was feeling better than he had been in recent days.

Neither astronaut took motion sickness tablets on Thursday and they did not need sleeping tablets the previous night.

Both men slept more peacefully than on Wednesday night after disengaging earpieces which had previously picked up a loud buzzing noise as the space craft passed over Iran, Southern Russia and Thailand.

Baird puts William in the picture

Continued from page 1

first week of October, 1925, everything functioned properly. The image of the dummy's head formed itself on the screen with what appeared to be an almost unbelieveable clarity. I had got it!

He paid half a crown (12½ pence) to persuade his office boy, William Tayton, to sit amid the bright lights and whirring discs of the transmitter. Baird wrote: "I saw the flickering but clearly recognizable image of William's face, the first face seen by television.

It is clear that Baird thought himself the originator of television, and Mr Flannery is determined to prove him right. However, he believes there is a concerted effort in America to promote Zorkin as the father of television, even though Zorkin said in 1977: "I invented the iconoscope. That is my claim. I make no other claim. Father? What is Father? That is newspaper talk."

Zorkin, now in his nineties, lives in Florida and Princeton, New Jersey.

□ It may have been luck that Baird's system was adopted by the BBC for the first regular television broadcasts in 1926—it is said that Baird was the first to decide whether his or a competitor's should be used—but experts insist that his work clinched the matter (Kenneth Gossling writes).

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh visits new Conference Centre in Harrogate, 11.30; addresses Conference of Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, York University, 3.30.

Princess Anne, Patron, Riding for the Disabled Association, attends lunch, Sandringham, 12.30.

Princess Margaret attends Royal Air Force Anniversary Concert, in aid of Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund, Royal Festival Hall, 7.45.

The Duchess of Gloucester, Pre-

sent, General Welfare of the Blind, opens new factory at Ashburton Grove, London, 11.30.

Exhibitions in progress

William Havell Bicentenary Exhibition, Abbot Hall Art Gallery, Kendal; Mon to Fri 10.30 to 5.30, Sat and Sun 2 to 5; (until April 25).

The Gentle Eye—photographs by Jane Bow, Scottish National Portrait Gallery, Queen Street, Edinburgh; Mon to Sat 10.30 to 5, Sun 2 to 5; (until April 11).

Drawings and watercolours by John Ruskin, Whitworth Art Gallery, University of Manchester, Whitworth Park, Manchester; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 10 to 5; Thurs 10 to 9; (until May 3).

Five defendants who also co-operated received reduced sentences ranging from two years and two months to 14 years.

Before the defendants were

led away they waved and

greeted their families, who sent

hamburgers and soft drinks into the court-room cages

during the long wait for the

verdict.—Reuter.

The papers

The Daily Mirror asks why Taris Ali has wanted to rejoin the Labour Party, when in 1968 he joined "as a joke" and promptly tore up his card. "The same joke isn't funny today," the paper says. The Labour Party has since M'd Ali like it needs a lot deposit."

Strongly criticizing "the daft leader of the GLC" for his attack on Sir Kenneth Newman, the Daily Express says: "In seeking to drag the police into the picture, Mr Livingstone is not doing but dragging himself into the political gutter."

The deterioration of the West Bank situation is putting France in a delicate situation. Le Monde said yesterday with "all parties to the conflict expecting France to give precise pledges of solidarity."

The Washington Post said there must be an "awfully clear demonstration that the right people have the upper hand in Guatemala after the latest coup, before US aid is renewed."

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